

# IELTS General Training Essays

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## **IELTS General Training Essays Index**

| S.No | Essay   | Category                    | Date                                 |
|------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1.   | Some people think it is better for people to change their career at least once in their life and do different kinds of jobs. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?  | Job/Workplace               | Feb 2006, Australia                  |
| 2.   | Some companies and organizations require their employees to wear uniform. What are the advantages and disadvantages of wearing uniform?   | Job/Workplace               | Nov, 2006<br>Feb 2008<br>Australia   |
| 3.   | According to a survey, people involved in certain occupations and professions are seen to be honest. What is the situation in your country? Why?  | Job/Workplace               | Mar 2008, Australia                  |
| 4.   | Although there are more and more women police officers in reality, are they really suitable for this job?   | Job/Workplace/<br>Gender    |                                      |
| 5.   | Nowadays some professionals such as doctors, lawyers and engineers are paid much higher than ordinary workers. What do you think of this trend? Are there any jobs which you think should offer higher salaries?                                    | Job/Workplace               | April, 2006<br>Australia             |
| 6.   | Nowadays, some celebrities such as film stars, sportsmen and pop musicians are paid too much money. Do you agree or disagree? Which jobs should be highly paid?   | Job/Workplace               |                                      |
| 7.   | In some countries, it is common for women to participate in the workforce when their children are young. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?   | Job/Workplace/<br>Gender    | July 2006, Australia                 |
| 8.   | Some people who go to work abroad for a period of time take their family with them. Does it have more advantages than disadvantages for individual and their family?  | Job/Workplace               | Feb 2008<br>Australia                |
| 9.   | In many countries, teenagers are encouraged to do part-time jobs. What's the situation like in your country? What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of doing part-time jobs?  | Job/Workplace/<br>Teenagers | April 2007<br>Sept 2009<br>Australia |
| 10.  | In many places women are taking jobs which are traditionally done by men. What do you think make these changes happen? What's your opinion about it?  | Job/Workplace/<br>Gender    | July 2007, Australia                 |
| 11.  | Nowadays, many people have to work longer time, and they feel more stressful than before. What are the reasons? What can employers do to make their life easier?  | Job/Workplace               |                                      |
| 12.  | More and more people are working at home rather than in the workplace. Some people say this will bring benefits to the workers and their families, but others think it will bring stress to the home. Discuss both views and give your own opinion. | Job/Workplace               | Aug 2007, Australia                  |
| 13.  | Travel from and to work is becoming more difficult. One solution is that employers should allow employees to work at home. Do you agree that the advantages are more than disadvantages?  | Job/Workplace               | Apr 2008, May 2010<br>Australia      |
| 14.  | Nowadays doctors can become very rich. Maybe they should not focus on profitable activities such as plastic surgery or looking after rich patients and concentrate more on patient's health, no matter how rich they are.                           | Job/Workplace               |                                      |

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| 15. | In companies promotions to high positions should be given to employees inside the company not to someone from outside or new hiring, do you agree or disagree.                                    | Job/Workplace                          | Nov 2011, Australia                  |
| 16. | Self-employed and working for companies or institutions, which is better?   | Job/Workplace                          | Apr 2008, Australia                  |
| 17. | Many people prefer to stay the same type of work all their life, and others prefer to change the type of work. Discuss both sides and state your own opinion.                                     | Job/Workplace                          | June 2009, Australia                 |
| 18. | Many people want to have a successful career and a happy family life both. What problems are involved in combining a career and family life? How to overcome such problems?                       | Job/Workplace                          | Nov 2008, Australia                  |
| 19. | In many countries, workers over 60 can still be found in the workplace. However, some people think that this may cause social problems and they should be retired. Do you agree or disagree?      | Job/Workplace                          | June 2010, Australia                 |
| 20. | There is too much stress in the workplace. What can employees and employers do about it?  | Job/Workplace                          | July 2008<br>Jan 2011<br>Australia   |
| 21. | Many jobs used to be done at home by hand, but nowadays an increasing number of them are done using machines instead. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this development.               | Job/Workplace                          | October 2006 & May 2008<br>Australia |
| 22. | There are some violent cartoon characters on TV such as Mickey Mouse which bring negative influence to children. Do you agree or disagree? What types of TV programmes are suitable for children? | Children and TV                        | Sept 2007, Australia                 |
| 23. | Some people argue that a growing number of young people spend too much time in watching TV. Why does this phenomenon happen? And what kinds of activities should be encouraged to them?           | Children and TV                        | Mar 2009<br>Australia                |
| 24. | Some people think that watching TV programmes can help children's development while others disagree. What is your opinion?  | Children and TV                        | June 2007<br>Australia               |
| 25. | Most children want to watch the same TV programs and play the same computer games like their friends do. Should parents allow them to do like this?   | Children and TV                        | Sept 2011<br>Australia               |
| 26. | Some parents believe that watching TV and playing computer games should be limited and substituted by reading books. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.                                 | Children – TV, computer games vs books |                                      |
| 27. | Young people have different ideas and attitudes with their parents and grandparents. What are the differences? What problems may be caused?   | Children and parents – generation gap  | Feb 2010, Australia                  |
| 28. | Parents often buy their children many toys. What are the advantages and disadvantages of children having a large number of toys? Use examples from your personal knowledge and experience.        | Children and too many toys             | Feb, 2006<br>Nov 2011<br>Australia   |
| 29. | Today, majority of children are raised by their grandparents due to the fact that their parents are busy working. To what extent do you think it affects the whole family?                        | Children raised by grandparents        | Sept. 2006, Australia                |
| 30. | It is better for children if the whole families (e.g. aunts, uncles   | Children and                           | April                                |

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|     | and grandparents) are involved in the children's upbringing, rather than their fathers and mothers only. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?   | joint families<br>Agree                            | 2006,<br>Australia                           |
| 31. | It is better for children if the whole families (e.g. aunts, uncles and grandparents) are involved in the children's upbringing, rather than their fathers and mothers only. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? | Children and<br>joint families<br>Disagree         | April<br>2006,<br>Australia                  |
| 32. | Some people think parents should control the behaviour of children from a very young age but others think we should give them more freedom. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.                                | Children's<br>behaviour<br>should be<br>controlled | Sept<br>2008,<br>Australia                   |
| 33. | Many adults think the childhood and schooldays are the best years of a person's life. What's the reason do you think? Do you agree or disagree?  | Childhood best<br>phase of life                    | October<br>2007,<br>Australia                |
| 34. | Some people believe that children should be brought up in cities. Others believe that countryside offers a better environment for children. Discuss both views and give your opinion.                                    | Children brought<br>up in cities or<br>countryside |  |
| 35. | In many countries, children are getting fatter and less fit day by day. Why is it so and suggest solutions.  | Children and<br>obesity                            |  |
| 36. | People say that a child's success is dependent on the way parents bring them up. To what extent do you agree or disagree?  | Children and<br>bringing up<br>(nurture)           | August<br>2009,<br>Australia                 |
| 37. | <b>Providing children with pocket money on a weekly basis can benefit them in the future. Do you agree or disagree?</b>  | Children and<br>pocket money                       |  |
| 38. | In some countries, the age of 18 means adults, while in others, it is older. What is your opinion and talk about the responsibility of an adult?   | Children and the<br>age of adulthood               | May<br>2010,<br>Australia                    |
| 39. | Teenagers have problems at home and school. What difficulties are they facing now? What should parents and schools do to help them?  | Children<br>problems at<br>home and<br>school      | Dec.<br>2008<br>Australia                    |
| 40. | More and more young children have mobile phone. Some people say it is a good thing for them, while others say it is a bad thing. What is your opinion?   | Children and cell<br>phones                        | April<br>2010,<br>Australia                  |
| 41. | Children have the responsibility to take care of their older family members, but some people say that old people should not need to live with their families. What is your opinion?                                      | Elderly/ old<br>people / family                    | June<br>2006,<br>Australia                   |
| 42. | Nowadays, people are living an increasingly longer life and in many countries there are more old people than young people. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?                                      | Elderly/ old<br>people / family                    | October<br>2006,<br>Jan<br>2007<br>Australia |
| 43. | Some people claim that family members are more important than friends; do you agree or disagree with this statement?   | Elderly/ old<br>people / family                    | Oct<br>2009<br>Australia                     |
| 44. | Nowadays, fewer people tend to look after their old relatives and send them to some old age homes. What is the situation in your country? In your opinion, who should be responsible to look after the elderly?          | Elderly/ old<br>people / family                    | Aug<br>2008,<br>Australia                    |
| 45. | There are more and more old people in many parts of the world. What are the causes of this and what are the solutions.   | Elderly/ old<br>people / family                    | July<br>2008<br>Australia                    |
| 46. | Some people say now there is less communication between  | Elderly/ old                                       | Novemb                                       |

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|     | the family members than in the past. To what extent do you agree or disagree?   | people / family                 | er 2008<br>Australia                                     |
| 47. | Young people these days tend to be less polite and respectful than in the past. Causes and solutions.   | Elderly/ old<br>people / family | Jan<br>2009,<br>Australia                                |
| 48. | Some sports are extremely dangerous but many people still like them very much. Why do people take part in dangerous sports? Give some suggestions on how to deal with these dangers.  | Sports / health /<br>food       | Jan<br>2007 &<br>1/2/2014<br>Australia                   |
| 49. | Some people think competitive sport is important for a child's education. Others think it has negative effects on children. Discuss both views and give your opinion.   | Sports / health /<br>food       | Feb<br>2009,<br>Australia                                |
| 50. | Some people believe that Competitive sports like football is valuable for different group ages and culture while some others believe that it may cause some problems for culture and nationalities. Discuss both views and give your opinion.   | Sports / health /<br>food       |  |
| 51. | More people have unhealthy diet and do not do enough exercises. What are the reasons for this? How can we encourage people to have a healthier lifestyle?   | Sports / health /<br>food       | April 2007<br>May 2008<br>Mar 2014<br>Australia          |
| 52. | Schools do not teach young people enough knowledge to look after their health. Do you agree with this opinion?  | Sports / health /<br>food       | Nov<br>2007<br>Australia                                 |
| 53. | Discuss your opinion about how modernism can affect our health. What can the government do to overcome such circumstances?  | Sports / health /<br>food       | Sept<br>2010,<br>Australia                               |
| 54. | Fast food is becoming one part of people's daily life everywhere, and this has had negative effects on our lifestyles and diet. Do you agree with this statement?   | Sports / health /<br>food       | August<br>2009<br>Australia                              |
| 55. | Doctors say that people do not enough physical exercise. What are reasons? Suggest some solutions.  | Sports / health /<br>food       | Nov<br>2010,<br>Australia                                |
| 56. | Many people think the professional sportsmen/sportswomen's behaviors on or off the field are not important as long as they are good players. To what extent do you agree or disagree with it?   | Sports / health /<br>food       | Oct<br>2009,<br>Australia                                |
| 57. | Most of people hope that they can hold sporting competitions in their own countries, while others believe that it may cause problems. Discuss both sides and give your ideas.   | Sports / health /<br>food       | April<br>2011<br>Australia                               |
| 58. | People try new dangerous sports such as sky-diving or rock climbing. Should such sports be banned?  | Sports / health /<br>food       |  |
| 59. | Now the traditions and customs of the food we eat and the way we eat it are changing. What is the way they are changing, and what do you think of the change.   | Sports / health /<br>food       | May<br>2009,<br>Australia                                |
| 60. | Do you agree or disagree that improvements in technology reduce the role of Olympic Games.  | Sports / health /<br>food       |  |
| 61. | Playing team sports can teach students more than just games themselves. What do young people learn from playing team games? How are they useful in their later life?  | Sports / health /<br>food       | Aug<br>2011<br>Australia                                 |
| 62. | In many countries around the world, shopping has turned into a form of entertainment rather than a way of getting what people need. Discuss the reasons for this trend. Is it a positive or negative development?<br>Or<br>In many places shopping is becoming a free-time activity, replacing the traditional hobbies of the past. Discuss the | Shops and<br>shopping           | May<br>2006,<br>May<br>2007<br>Sept<br>2010<br>Australia |

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|     | reasons for this development. Is this development positive or negative?   |                               |                                       |
| 63. | Nowadays, large shops have replaced privately-owned shops. Why is it? Do you think it is a positive or negative development? Or<br>Nowadays, local shops have been replaced by large supermarkets. Do you think its advantages outweigh the disadvantages?  | Shops and shopping            | Dec 2008<br>April 2011<br>Australia   |
| 64. | Some shops are open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Do you think it is a good thing for the customers, shop staff and company as a whole?   | Shops and shopping            |                                       |
| 65. | Many people are doing their shopping on the internet nowadays. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of shopping online.   | Shops and shopping            |                                       |
| 66. | Road transport is taking over rail services. Discuss the positive and negative effects of this development. Is this situation true for your country?  | Cars/Travel/transport/Tourism | March, 2006<br>Oct 2008<br>Australia  |
| 67. | More and more people use private cars instead of taking public transport. What are the reasons for this trend? How can the government encourage people to take public transport?  | Cars/Travel/transport/Tourism | August 2006,<br>Nov 2007<br>Australia |
| 68. | Now, more and more people want to buy cars. However, cars cause many problems. What are these problems? How can we encourage people to take public transportation?  | Cars/Travel/transport/Tourism |                                       |
| 69. | Some people say the cars should be banned from the centers of cities. Do you agree or disagree?   | Cars/Travel/transport/Tourism | 18/1/2014<br>Australia                |
| 70. | In some countries, air travel has become a much cheaper form of transport than in the past. Some people say this is a positive development but other people disagree. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.<br>OR<br>In many countries a plane tickets prices are cheaper. Is it positive or negative situation. | Cars/Travel/transport/Tourism | July 2007,<br>Nov 2010<br>Australia   |
| 71. | Some people think building more roads can reduce the traffic problems. What do you think of this solution? OR<br>Traffic jam is a problem in many towns and cities. Some people suggest that governments build wider roads in order to solve the problem. Do you agree or disagree?                                     | Cars/Travel/transport/Tourism | Mar 2007,<br>Mar 2011<br>Australia    |
| 72. | In many countries, there are an increasing number of private cars. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?   | Cars/Travel/transport/Tourism | Sept 2006,<br>Australia               |
| 73. | Some people think that there will be decrease in international travel in future. Do you think the less amount of international travel is a positive or a negative development?  | Cars/Travel/transport/Tourism | May 2009,<br>Australia                |
| 74. | Travelling abroad is regarded as a valuable and good activity for young people, but some people think it takes too much time and money. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.   | Cars/Travel/transport/Tourism | Aug 2007<br>Feb 2011<br>Australia     |
| 75. | Some people believe that travelling alone really benefits in  | Cars/Travel/transport/Tourism | 5/4/2014                              |

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|     | learning a country's culture and experience, while others believe it is better to travel with someone you know. Discuss both these views and share your opinion.  | sport/Tourism                            | India                      |
| 76. | Some people believe public transport should be free of charge. Do you think the advantages are more than disadvantages?   | Cars/Travel/transport/Tourism            | Dec 2011<br>Australia      |
| 77. | Today the Internet has replaced traditional books as a source of information. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this development.   | Media-radio/TV/Internet / newspapers     | Dec, 2006,<br>Australia    |
| 78. | Radio will no longer be able to hold its presence as television and Internet media will replace it very soon. Do you agree or disagree?   | Media-radio/TV/Internet / newspapers     | Jan 2008<br>Australia      |
| 79. | Nowadays people depend on newspapers, radios, television and the Internet for news and information. Which in your opinion is the best way for getting news and why?   | Media-radio/TV/Internet / newspapers     | July, 2006<br>Australia    |
| 80. | Among Internet, radio, TV and newspaper, which has the greatest effect on the social activity of people? Tell reasons.  | Media-radio/TV/Internet / newspapers     |                            |
| 81. | More and more media attention is being paid to famous people who are successful in sports and movies. Why do you think this is happening? Is this a good thing?   | Media- radio/ TV/Internet/ newspapers    | Sept 2007,<br>Australia    |
| 82. | Some people say television contributes more than other modern inventions to the quality of life of ordinary people. Do you agree or disagree?   | Media- radio/ TV/Internet/ newspapers    | October 2008,<br>Australia |
| 83. | Some people are interested in international news, others prefer watching national news. Discuss both views and give your opinion.   | Media- radio/ TV/Internet/ newspapers    | Nov 2011<br>Australia      |
| 84. | Recently, more and more people use the Internet to get information and buy goods. What do you think about the advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon?  | Media- radio/ TV/Internet/ newspapers    | August 2008,<br>Australia  |
| 85. | Films can have effect on the children's education and teach them many things. Do you think it is always a positive influence? Discuss.  | Media – What films teach children        |                            |
| 86. | Some people who failed at school can be highly successful in their adult life. Discuss why does this happen? And what are the main factors to get a successful life?  | Education                                | March 2010<br>Australia    |
| 87. | Some people say that in our modern age it is unnecessary to teach children about the skills of handwriting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?  | Education – handwriting importance       |                            |
| 88. | Some people think if students are afraid of the teacher it is better. Others say that having a friendly relation is better. What do you think?<br>Or<br>Is it good for student to be afraid of teacher or teacher should be friendly with student. Discuss both points and give your opinion? | Education – teacher friendly or strict   |                            |
| 89. | Some people say that to become a good teacher, you should acquire enough training, while others say that teaching capabilities can be developed with experience. Discuss both views and give your opinion   | Education – teacher training necessary   |                            |
| 90. | Some people think young people are suitable for learning foreign languages. Some people think adults are more suitable. Discuss both and give your opinion.   | Education – language – who learns better | Mar 2008,<br>Australia     |
| 91. | An increasing number of people decide to learn a foreign language. What is the most difficult part when learning a  | Education – difficulties in              | Dec. 2006,                 |



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|      | foreign language? How can the learner overcome these difficulties?  | learning foreign language  | Australia               |
| 92.  | People find it very difficult to speak in public or to give a presentation before an audience. Do you think public speaking skill is really important? Give reasons. Some people say public speaking should be taught at school. Do you agree or disagree?  | Education – should public speaking be taught in schools            |                         |
| 93.  | In some countries students are required to learn a foreign language, but in other countries it is not necessary to do so. Discuss the benefits of each case and give your own opinion.  | Education – should foreign language be mandatory in schools        | May 2007<br>Australia   |
| 94.  | In some countries, children start school at the age of seven, so they could have more time to build relationship with their parents. In other countries, children start school when they are 4 years old. Do the advantages outweigh its disadvantages?     | Education – school going age                                       | Feb, 2009<br>Australia  |
| 95.  | Some people say subjects like arts, music, drama and creative writing are more beneficial to children, and therefore they need more of these subjects to be included in their timetable. Do you agree or disagree?  | Education – art, music, creative writing in schools                |                         |
| 96.  | Some people think children should attend extra classes after school, while others disagree. Discuss both opinions and give your own view.   | Education – tuitions for against                                   | Dec 2007<br>Australia   |
| 97.  | Some people think that the young children benefit from going to the nursery school before starting primary school. Others think it is better for the young children to stay all day with the families. Discuss both views and give your opinion.            | Education – nursery schools – for/against                          | Jan 2008<br>Australia   |
| 98.  | Nowadays, an increasing number of countries are confronted with the disappearance of cooking skills. What is the situation like in your country? Do you agree that the young children should be taught home cooking in school? ( disagree)                  | Education – cookery in schools                                     | Apr 2009<br>Australia   |
| 99.  | Nowadays, an increasing number of countries are confronted with the disappearance of cooking skills. What is the situation like in your country? Do you agree that the young children should be taught home cooking in school? ( agree)                     | Education – cookery in schools                                     | Apr 2009<br>Australia   |
| 100. | In some countries, schools are open late so that children can be looked after when parents are at work. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages.   | Education – schools open till late                                 | April 2009<br>Australia |
| 101. | In modern society, many people think that primary schools should teach science and technology rather than history and geography which are useless and boring. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?   | Education – Science and technology or history geography in schools | June 2009,<br>Australia |
| 102. | Some people think that secondary school students should study academic subjects (such as history and physics). While others believe they should study practical subjects (such as car machinery and cookery). Discuss both views and give your own opinion. | Education – theoretical vs practical subjects in schools           | Oct 2011<br>Australia   |
| 103. | Students in schools should learn practical skills like car maintenance and managing a bank account in addition to academic subjects. Do you agree or disagree?  | Education – Practical subjects in addition to academic in schools  | Aug 2010,<br>Australia  |

# X

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| 104. | Some say that secondary school should spend less time on traditional subjects such as history and should spend more time on communication skill and business courses. To what extent do you agree or disagree with it?            | Education – business courses and communication      | Dec 2009<br>Australia                       |
| 105. | Many students have to study subjects which they do not like. Some people think this is a complete waste of time. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?  | Education – Students study subjects they don't like | May 2007,<br>Australia                      |
| 106. | Some think the subject of music is not necessary in primary school, and other practical subjects like science should replace it. What is your opinion?  | Education – importance of music in schools          |   |
| 107. | Many schools have made it compulsory for the students to wear a uniform. However it is hated by the students. How much freedom do you think students should have to choose their own clothes to school?                           | Education – school uniforms                         | 15/2/2014<br>India                          |
| 108. | Schools should teach children good behavior and introduce ideas of 'right' and 'wrong'. It should not only be left to parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree?   | Education – purpose of schools                      | Sept 2010,<br>Australia                     |
| 109. | Many people think that zoos which kept wild animals by man-made environment should no longer exist in 21st century. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?  | Zoos / animals                                      | Sept 2008,<br>Australia                     |
| 110. | Some people argue that the purpose of zoos is only to entertain people. What do you think? What are the other purposes of zoos?   | Zoos / animals                                      | Feb 2010,<br>Australia                      |
| 111. | Some people think spending a lot on birthdays and marriage celebrations is a waste of money but others think it is important to the young people and the society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.                       | Money matters                                       | Jan 2006,<br>Australia                      |
| 112. | Some people say that money can make life easier and more comfortable. But others say that having a lot of money can bring some problems. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of having a lot of money?         | Money matters                                       | June 2006,<br>Aug 2010<br>Australia         |
| 113. | Many people think having enough money brings happiness but others think too much money can bring problems. Do you agree or disagree?  | Money matters                                       | Jan 2009<br>Australia<br>15/3/2014<br>India |
| 114. | Today in many countries, people hold bigger and more expensive weddings than before. Is it a positive or negative development?  | Money matters                                       | Jan 2011,<br>Australia                      |
| 115. | The level of noise around us is constantly increasing, and is affecting the quality of our lives. What cause the noise? What should be done about it?   | Environment – noise pollution                       | Mar, 2007<br>Mar 2011<br>Australia          |
| 116. | In natural scenic spots, such as lakes, mountains and beaches there is much litter or rubbish. Why do people do that? How to deal with it?  | Environment – litter in public places               | June 2008<br>Australia                      |
| 117. | Some people believe that taxing companies which cause it is the best way to reduce industrial pollution while some suggest that there are several other ways to solve this trouble. Discuss both the views and give your opinion. | Environment – Industrial pollution solutions        | 15/2/2014<br>Australia                      |
| 118. | People generally know that the environment is important. However, most individuals still don't take responsibility to protect the environment. Why is this? What should be done   | Environment – Why people do so little               | March, 2006<br>Australia                    |

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|      | to encourage people to protect the environment?   |  |  |
| 119. | Nowadays, more and more building have been rebuilt or redesigned into a new modern form. What are the advantages and disadvantages of it?   | Buildings / architecture                                     |  |
| 120. | Many old cities around the world are going through a major process of modernization. What are the advantages and disadvantages of modernization?  | Buildings / architecture / historical , cities modernization | June 2008, Australia                   |
| 121. | Historical buildings are destroyed for housing schemes in most of the cities these days? Discuss and give your opinion.   | Buildings / architecture / historical buildings destroyed    | July 2011, Australia 18/2/2013 - India |
| 122. | Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in a house and living in an apartment and give your opinion  | Buildings / architecture / historical                        | May 2008 Australia                     |
| 123. | Many people think living in high-rise apartment blocks makes people feel lonely and unhappy, while others argue it has advantages. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.  | Buildings / architecture / historical                        | July 2009 Australia                    |
| 124. | Too many old historic buildings are in danger and destroyed in many countries. What are the main reasons? How to protect them?  | Buildings / architecture / historical                        |  |
| 125. | Nowadays, more and more people don't wear their national clothes, and the clothes look almost the same all over the world. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?   | Globalisation – traditional costumes                         | June 2011, Australia                   |
| 126. | In the past people wore their traditional clothes and followed their culture. These days most people wear similar clothes and therefore look very similar to one another. Do you think this is a positive or a negative development? (same as 107 but different version ) | Globalisation – traditional costumes                         | June 2011, Australia                   |
| 127. | Advertising influences people to buy thing such as clothes and shoes. What are the problems caused by that? What solutions can be given?  | Advertisements   |  |
| 128. | Nowadays, some people believe advertising is useful and informative. Others say it gives false information about the products and increase the price of goods. What is your opinion?  | Advertisements   | July 2010 Australia                    |
| 129. | Advertisements for things like toys and food have effects on children and their families. Many people think this is negative. Do you agree or disagree?   | Advertisements   | Oct 2011 Australia                     |
| 130. | Some people think the mobile phones are most useful for their professional lives, others think mobiles phones are most useful in their personal life. Discuss both of them and give your opinion.   | Technology – cell phones                                     | Dec 2007 Australia                     |
| 131. | Computers are increasingly popular these days. Many people think that the advantages the computer has brought outweigh the disadvantages. What is your opinion? Give your reasons in your own experience.   | Technology - Computers                                       | Sept 2009 Australia                    |
| 132. | Some people argue that the technology such as mobile phone (cell phone) destroys social interaction. Do you agree or disagree?  | Technology – cell phones                                     | Jan 2010 Australia                     |
| 133. | Some people prefer to live in hot climate, while others like to live in cold climate. Discuss both of the views and give your own opinions.   | Miscellaneous – hot climate vs cold climate                  | Oct 2007, Australia                    |
| 134. | Nowadays, some people are changing their way of look  | Miscellaneous –  | Dec                                    |

|      |  |  |   |
|------|--|--|---|
|      | through hair color, clothes, cosmetics even plastic operation. What are the reasons? Is this a good thing?   | people changing looks                                  | 2009<br>Australia<br>1/2/2014<br>India    |
| 135. | Wearing fashionable clothes is becoming important today. Is the attitude to wearing fashionable clothes leading to a positive development or negative development?   | Miscellaneous – fashionable clothes                    | Mar 2010,<br>July 2010<br>Australia       |
| 136. | <i>To what extent do you think governments should be held responsible when problems of homelessness and unemployment arise?</i>  | Miscellaneous – unemployment and homelessness          |   |
| 137. | Some people believe that hobbies need to be difficult to be enjoyable. To what extent do you agree or disagree?  | Miscellaneous – hobbies                                |   |
| 138. | Some people are making new friends by using socializing network websites and internet chat rooms. Some people say that this is a good thing. Other people say that people should make new friends by face-to-face chat. Discuss these views and give your own opinion. | Miscellaneous – online friends vs face-to-face friends | 9/1/2014<br>Australia                     |
| 139. | Nowadays there is a trend of buying goods even when they are not necessary. Why do people tend to buy those? Is it a positive or negative trend regarding individual and society?  | Miscellaneous – consumerism                            | 9/1/2014<br>India                         |
| 140. | Sending criminals to prison is not the best method of dealing with them. Education and job training are better ways to help them. Do you agree or disagree?  | Crime – prisons vs job training and education          | 8/3/2014<br>USA<br>Nov 2010,<br>Australia |
| 141. | Parent, usually mothers, give up work, choose to stay home and look after families. Some people think the government should give them salary, others disagree. Do you agree or disagree. Give the reasons from your own knowledge and experience.                      | Miscellaneous – Government funding housewives          | Feb, 2008<br>Australia                    |
| 142. | Tobacco is a kind of drug. People have been free to use it. Some people think that it should be illegal to use it comparing with other drugs. To what extent do you agree or disagree? What is your opinion?   | Miscellaneous – Banning tobacco – Against banning      | Past GT                                   |
| 143. | Tobacco is a kind of drug. People have been free to use it. Some people think that it should be illegal to use it comparing with other drugs. To what extent do you agree or disagree? What is your opinion?   | Miscellaneous – Banning tobacco – For banning          | Past GT                                   |
| 144. | Nowadays, some people still prefer to ride bicycles. To what extent do you think this will help us in today's life?  | Miscellaneous – Bicycles                               | Past GT                                   |
| 145. | Many people are moving to big cities. Why is that? Do you think it is a good trend?  | Miscellaneous – why people move to cities              | Jan 2010,<br>Australia                    |
| 146. | In some societies, more and more people choose to live on their own. What is the reason for this, and is it a positive or negative trend?  | Miscellaneous – why people live on their own           | April 2010<br>Australia                   |
| 147. | Some people say that it is impossible to live comfortably in big cities. What problems are faced by the people living in big cities? What solutions can be taken to solve those problems?  | Miscellaneous – Problems of cities and solutions       | Dec 2010<br>Australia                     |
| 148. | In many countries there is a lot of rubbish (garbage) because more and more people buy things. What are the  | Miscellaneous Consumerism                              | Jan 2011,                                 |

|      |   |  |                         |
|------|---|--|-------------------------|
|      | causes? In your country, does it have the same problem?   | and environment                                | Australia               |
| 149. | Some people believe the elderly said that life is better in the past. Do you agree or disagree?   | Miscellaneous – life better in the past        | Feb 2011<br>Australia   |
| 150. | There is an increasing number of people using the credit card which seems likely to replace the coins and notes in the future. Do you think it is a positive or negative development? | Miscellaneous – credit cards                   | May 2011,<br>Australia  |
| 151. | Nowadays, people have a lot of pressure and stress. What are they? How to reduce them?  | Miscellaneous – stress                         | June 2011,<br>Australia |
| 152. | Some people think students in primary school / secondary school should be taught how to manage money because it is an important life skill. Do you agree or disagree?                 | Miscellaneous – schools teach money management | July 2011<br>Australia  |

# 1

Some people think it is better for people to change their career at least once in their life and do different kinds of jobs. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

I definitely agree with the notion that individuals should change their career at least once in life. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with there are some strong benefits that can come from a career change. One of the major benefits of changing careers is money. People may make more per year than they did with their previous job. This can help to lessen the financial burden of an individual or family. Secondly, a career change brings opportunity to learn new skills. They will have to learn new actions and meet new expectations. This general education that is formed through a career change will be beneficial in the future.

What is more, those who have a wide range of careers under their belt will have more job security in the long run. Instead of being proficient at one career path, a person can be proficient with two or even more. If he loses his job, he can seek out jobs in different career fields, as opposed to one career field. Therefore, his chances of landing a new job are greater than those who have simply held one career.

Finally, a career change is good for breaking the monotony. It is psychologically true that whenever a person takes his first job, he is usually excited about it; but in the course of time, his interest wanes and soon he begins to suffer from an excruciating boredom. A career change fills him with new excitement that propels him into working with renewed interest and enthusiasm.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate my opinion that a career change has many benefits and instead of sticking to one job one should change career at least once in life if not more times.

## **Plan followed in the essay**

Intro: Opinion - agree.

Para 1: Advantages of career change

- financial gain
- opportunity to learn new skills

Para 2: Other advantage of career change

- Job security

Para 3: more advantage of career change

- Break monotony

Conclusion: Reiterate your opinion.

Some companies and organizations require their employees to wear uniform. What are the advantages and disadvantages of wearing uniform?

Setting a dress code in the workplace is becoming increasingly common. In the following paragraphs, I intend to delve into the advantages and disadvantages of wearing uniform at work.

One of the major benefits of a dress code within the office is that it establishes an atmosphere of discipline and uniformity. It ensures that inappropriate or dirty clothing is not worn to work. It is also a social leveller. If everyone is dressed to the same standard, there will be no judgments made towards other employees on the basis of their clothes. Having a uniform also reduces employee confusion: a clear dress code means they don't have to wonder "what" to wear or whether something would be appropriate to wear to work.

A dress code is also very important in non-office environments, such as in factories, for keeping employees safe. For example, if the employees work around machinery that a tie could get caught in, ties are not appropriate. The same is true of jewellery, belts, scarves, and long hair. Therefore, a dress code keeps employees safe from injury and also allows them to look presentable if clients or visitors come on site. This dress code is also very beneficial for other places of service, such as fast food, or grocery stores. It portrays a feeling of cleanliness when you know the staff is wearing their appropriate uniform, as opposed to if they were wearing their own clothing.

Furthermore, a dress code sets the "tone" of the company. For example, a law office with all the lawyers and associates wearing suits and formal business attire is viewed as being professional and able to handle court cases. How the public perceives a company is important to the type and amount of business it does.

The disadvantages are that it can become very boring to wear the same clothes daily. Secondly, the uniform may not be very comfortable to wear. These disadvantages can, however, be lessened by giving the employees a say in the choice of uniform.

To conclude, a dress code is very essential nowadays in the workplace. The disadvantages are negligible as compared to the advantages.

**Plan followed**

Intro: a balanced approach as it is a discuss essay.

Para 1: Advantages of uniform

- it establishes an atmosphere of discipline and uniformity.
- It is also a social leveler
- Having a uniform also reduces employee confusion: a clear dress code means they don't have to wonder "what" to wear or whether something would be appropriate to wear to work.

Para 2: More advantages of uniform

- keeping employees safe
- This dress code is also very beneficial for other places of service, such as fast food, or grocery stores. It portrays a feeling of cleanliness when you know the staff is wearing their appropriate uniform, as opposed to if they were wearing their own clothing.

Para 3: More advantages of uniform

- a dress code sets the "tone" of the company. For example, a law office with all the lawyers and associates wearing suits and formal business attire is viewed as being professional and able to handle court cases.

Para 4: Disadvantages of uniform

- very boring to wear the same clothes daily
- may not be very comfortable to wear

Conclusion: The disadvantages are negligible as compared to the advantages.

According to a survey, people involved in certain occupations and professions are seen to be honest. What is the situation in your country? Why?

“Honesty is the cornerstone of all success, without which confidence and ability to perform shall cease to exist.” --Mary Kay Ash

It is well-known that some professions require people to demonstrate extra levels of honesty than other professions. For instance, those working in the medical and the teaching profession are seen to be more honest than advertisers and insurance agents. The situation is the same all over the world and my country is no exception. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth some reasons for this phenomenon.

In some professions being honest is the best way to maximize profits in the long run. Let us take the example of a businessman. The most effective way for a businessperson to maximize profits over a long period of time is to follow the highest standards of ethics. Ethical conduct will gain a company the kind of good reputation that earns repeat business. Treating suppliers, customers and others fairly is likely to result in their reciprocating.

Moreover, in some professions there is no room for dishonesty. For instance, in the medical profession you have to tell the correct diagnosis to the patients. A lawyer has to stick to facts and cannot afford to distort them based on his judgements. Similarly, journalists must provide news based on facts and cannot afford to present ill-founded news.

On the other hand, there are some professions such as the insurance agents and advertisers, who are seen to be less honest than others. This dishonesty may not be apparent as they may not be lying about their products or services; they may just be hiding facts. Thus, undue concern with honesty in these cases might result in lower profits and perhaps ultimate business failure.

However, it is difficult to generalize professions based on honesty. For instance, in the medical profession, some doctors may be prescribing an un-necessary battery of tests just for their benefit and some insurance agents may be telling all the positive and negative points of their insurance plans to their clients.

To conclude, some occupations seem to be more honest than the others. The situation is the same all over the world. However, to survive in the long run, honesty always pays.

#### **Plan followed in the essay**

Intro: Start with a quotation. Acknowledge the statement and tell about the situation in your country.

Para 1: One reason for honesty – beneficial in the long run

Para 2: Another reason – some professions have no room for dishonesty

Para 3: Reason for dishonesty in some professions with example

Para 4: Difficult to generalize honesty – individual variation

Conclusion:



Although there are more and more women police officers in reality, are they really suitable for this job?

Increasing numbers of women are choosing to work in the police force nowadays and have showed their mettle in this field. The issue raised is whether women are actually suited for such jobs. I believe that not only are women suited for such jobs, they are in fact better than men in many areas of police jobs.

In many of the areas of police activity, women are especially adaptable and can even perform better than men. For example, policewomen are especially suitable for working for special police prostitution groups, dealing with trafficking in women within the larger cities. They are also better in dealing with domestic violence and juvenile affairs. Policewomen are generally more acceptable to women and children who have been the victims of the misdeeds of men. Girls and young children have more confidence in women.

What is more, the field of crime prevention is becoming more important to police agencies and here policewomen play their greatest role. They are also gifted in gaining the confidence of small children and in determining whether behaviour is normal or antisocial. The employment of policewomen offers the best method of finding out the real problem, and then determining the best course of action to pursue.

Research conducted internationally clearly demonstrates that women officers use less physical force and are therefore better at dealing with violent confrontations with citizens. Additionally, women officers often possess better communication skills than their male counterparts and are better in obtaining the cooperation and trust required in their job. They are considered at least equal to male officers in most areas of police work. They have shown no differences in the quality of their performance in street patrolling. Those skeptical about their role of police officers base their argument on women's lack of physical strength. However, with proper training even this factor can be overcome.

To conclude, female officers are equally capable as their male counterparts. In some situations they have even proved themselves better than men. No wonder, we are seeing more and more women in police force.

#### **Plan followed in the essay**

Intro: Give your opinion and write a thesis statement. I have said women are suitable for these jobs and are even better at places.

Para 1: Give examples where women are better than men – Prostitution, juvenile crime

Para 2: More examples of where they are better – crime prevention

Para 3: Better communication skills – as good in street patrolling. Opponents view – less physical strength – negate it

Conclusion: Reiterate your views.

Nowadays some professionals such as doctors, lawyers and engineers are paid much higher than ordinary workers. What do you think of this trend? Are there any jobs which you think should offer higher salaries?

It is irrefutable that doctors, lawyers and engineers are paid much higher than ordinary workers. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss this issue at length and also suggest some other occupations, which deserve higher salaries.

To begin with, professions, such as medical, engineering and law, require far more years of study than what ordinary workers have to do. For example, for a basic M.B:B.S degree, more than 5 years of study is required, and after that to specialize in any specific field another three to five years are required. A person with a simple M.B:B.S degree does not earn all that high. Similar is the case with engineering and law professions. They have to undergo many years of struggle and training to finally reach their telephone-figure salaries.

Secondly, it requires a lot of financial input to attain these degrees. Many students have to take loans to study, which they have to repay later on. They may remain in debt for many years while they pay off their student loans. Therefore, their higher salaries are justified. Ordinary workers, on the other hand, do not have to spend huge amounts on their college and university fees. What is more, some of these professions are round-the-clock professions very challenging physically as well as emotionally. Finally, it would not be wrong to say that not all such professionals are highly paid. Many of them keep struggling throughout their lives.

There are many other jobs, which merit higher salaries. I believe that teachers and nurses are doing commendable jobs for the society. They should be paid lucrative salaries so that people want to join these occupations. Then, there are people working in our defense services such as the army, navy and air force. Because of them, we are leading secure lives. That is why they deserve higher pay-packages. Furthermore, people working in high-risk professions such as fire-fighters and security guards should be paid more and finally people in administrative posts such as IAS and IPS officers should have higher salaries.

To sum up, there is no doubt that doctors, lawyers are receiving high salaries, but they rightly deserve them and many other professions are there which need to be paid more.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: agree

Para 1: 1<sup>st</sup> reason for their higher pay – many years of study

Para 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> reason – Very high cost involved in such study

- Very demanding professions
- Not all are highly paid

Para 3: Other professions, which need higher pay

- Teachers, nurses
- Defense personnel
- Fire-fighters and security guards
- Administrative posts

Conclusion: Reiterate what you have already said

Nowadays, some celebrities such as film stars, sportsmen and pop musicians are paid too much money. Do you agree or disagree? Which jobs should be highly paid?

The high incomes of celebs in the field of sports and entertainment have always been a matter of dispute. I agree that they are getting high remuneration for what they are doing but I also firmly believe that they well deserve it. In the following paragraphs I shall put my arguments to support my opinion and also suggest some other jobs, which should be highly paid.

My first argument in favour of the high salaries of these celebrities is that they have a major contribution in the lives of people. They provide entertainment and inspiration and they also bring name and fame to our country. They are role models for the society and people follow them and listen to them. Secondly, they have a very short career span. Most of the people in the sports and entertainment field start their career at the age of 19-20 and retire by 33-35 years. Whatever these celebs earn is during these few years and after that they face struggle.

My final argument is that these celebs sacrifice their personal life completely and so they do deserve these high salaries. They cannot enjoy the common things of life like the common man does. They are always followed by the paparazzi and their children too always need security. This is too much price to pay for the high salaries they receive.

There are many other professions which require high salaries. Doctors, teachers and nurses also serve the humanity and deserve higher salaries. Then, there are people working in our defense services such as the army, navy and air force. Because of them, we are leading secure lives. That is why they deserve higher pay-packages. Furthermore, people working in high-risk professions such as fire-fighters and security guards should be paid more and finally people in administrative posts such as IAS and IPS officers should have higher salaries.

To sum up, people in the field of sports and entertainment well deserve their high incomes. However, there are many other professions, which also deserve high salaries.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: agree

Para 1:

- they have a major contribution in the lives of people.
- they have a very short career span

Para 2:

- these celebs sacrifice their personal life completely

Para 3: Other professions, which require higher salaries

Conclusion:

In some countries, it is common for women to participate in the workforce when their children are young. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

The mother's employment status does affect the families and children. These effects can be both – positive and negative which shall be discussed in this essay.

On the positive side, two family incomes are very important to make both ends meet. So women work and add to the financial status of the family. This additional income helps to provide better education and other facilities to the children. What is more, it has been seen that the children of working mothers do better academically, have better behaviour and adjust themselves better socially. Another advantage is that, most families accommodate to the mother's employment and in doing so provide a family environment that works well. In two-parent families, the fathers take on a larger share of the household tasks and child-care and this seems to have benefits for the children.

Furthermore, employed mothers have a higher level of well-being than those who stay at home and this, in turn, affects their parenting in positive ways. Therefore, the mother's employment itself does not seem to have the negative effects on the children. The society also has changed and today we have affordable and quality day care centres, which are a blessing for working mothers. Finally, women have proved their mettle in many fields and the modern workplaces need their services more than anything else.

The disadvantages, on the other hand, are that children need the loving and affectionate care of mothers in the early years of their lives and if mothers go to work then they are deprived of this to some extent. Women also need some rest after childbirth as it is a physically and emotionally challenging time for them. Some people opine that juvenile delinquency is on the rise because mothers do not give time to their children because of going to work.

To sum up, it can be said that there are both advantages and disadvantages of women going to work when their children are young. However, the pros far outweigh the cons.

#### Plan followed

Intro: Balanced intro as it is a discuss essay

Para 1: advantages

Para 2: more advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion: advantages outweigh disadvantages

Some people who go to work abroad for a period of time take their family with them. Does it have more advantages than disadvantages for the individual and their family?

The opportunities to work abroad are more today than they have ever been in the history of mankind. The big planet Earth has become a small global village and sovereign barriers seem to have disappeared. While working in a foreign country, some individuals take their family with them. This situation has both merits as well as demerits but definitely the pros outweigh the cons.

There are many obvious benefits of going abroad to work along with family. To begin with, individuals have more bonding with family. The family relationship is not weakened by distance. Some couples finally end up in divorce, as one or both of them cannot endure the long-term separation. Secondly, many people feel homesick and lonely and therefore cannot adjust in the foreign country and return home, thereby missing the golden opportunity of working abroad.

The most important point is that children, especially who are in young ages, need the care from both parents. Childhood is a crucial phase of life and comes only once. If children are deprived of one parent's love, it may have a considerable impact on their psyche. Therefore, working abroad with family can provide complete love and care to the children.

On the other hand, there are some problems of working abroad with families. To begin with, living with family members abroad means more expenses. A single person can share a room with someone in the initial stages but a complete family needs a proper house. What is more, all the members face stress of adaptation to alien surroundings. Parents themselves feel culture shock and therefore cannot help their children.

To conclude, there are both advantages and disadvantages in any choice of this issue. Personally, I believe that people should decide according to their specific circumstances. If there are financial constraints, then it is better to go alone initially. However, the family should be called as early as possible.

#### Plan followed

Intro: advantages outweigh the disadvantages

Para 1: Benefits

- individuals have more bonding with family. family relationship would not be weakened by distance
- many people feel homesick and may come back

Para 2: more benefits

- working abroad with family can provide complete love and care to the children. Childhood is a crucial phase of life and comes only once

Para 3: disadvantages

- living with family members abroad means more expenses
- all the members face stress of adaptation to alien surroundings

Conclusions: reiterate your opinion

In many countries, teenagers are encouraged to do part-time jobs. What's the situation like in your country? What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of doing part-time jobs?

Some countries such as the USA and UK encourage their secondary school students to do part time jobs. There are many pros and cons of this practice, which shall be discussed in this essay.

On the positive side, a teenager's job can teach work skills that will serve him well in college and prepare him for careers in adulthood. To add to it, he can acquire confidence, develop a sense of responsibility and feel more independent. Earning money will enable him to buy things he wants and will provide an opportunity for learning responsible money management. What is more, studies find that students who work a moderate amount—no more than 10 to 15 hours a week during the school years—tend to earn higher grades than those who don't work at all.

Furthermore, if parents work outside the home, an after-school job can give the teenager adult supervision in those crucial afternoon hours. Finally, the right jobs may expose him to new work possibilities and set him on the path to a lifetime career. Teens also gain useful, marketable skills such as improving their communication, learning how to handle people, developing interview skills and filling out job applications.

On the other hand, working more than 13 to 20 hours a week is associated with lower grades. Teens who work too many hours find it difficult to keep up extracurricular activities and social relationships. Some studies have found that teens who work long hours are more likely to engage in such risky activities as using illegal drugs or alcohol - in part because they are exposed to older co-workers who lead them astray. Finally, early entry into a negative or harsh work environment may encourage negative views of work. This would depend greatly on the maturity level of the teenager and the type of job obtained.

In India, teenagers generally do not work part time. This practice has recently started in big cities but is not very popular yet.

Summing up, teenagers are definitely benefited by working part time. However, the type of work should be carefully chosen and they should not be allowed to work more than 10-15 hours a week.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Para 4: Situation in India

Conclusion: Advantages more than disadvantages

In many places women are taking jobs which are traditionally done by men. What do you think make these changes happen? What's your opinion about it?

The physical and genetic differences between men and women equip them for different activities and skills. However, in today's scenario it has been seen that women are proving their mettle even in the traditionally male-dominated jobs. This essay shall delve into the reasons for this change.

The first and foremost reason is the opportunity today's women are getting. Nowadays, as more and more women in different countries have started working outside the home, it is clear that they are able to perform jobs that were traditionally only held by men. Secondly, today's woman is also going for higher education and because of this, even the highest positions in science, politics or law, for example, can be held successfully by women.

Another reason is that today anyone can be trained to do any type of job. There is also increasing scientific evidence that individual differences between people may be more important than gender differences. In other words, some women may be physically stronger than some men, while some male individuals may be more sensitive, or more caring than some women.

I believe that today societies are becoming more egalitarian. Earlier, women worked in the homes in most cultures. The girl child was even denied education in many places. Even if there were employed women, they tended to dominate the so-called 'caring professions' such as teaching, nursing or social work. But today, men and women are walking shoulder to shoulder in every field and the line of demarcation between them has faded.

To sum up, in the modern world individual men and women can be trained to develop similar abilities. Differences in aptitude and talents are greater at the individual level than at the gender level. That is why women are taking up jobs traditionally thought to be men's jobs.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall delve into the reasons for this change.

Para 1: Reasons

- opportunity today's women are getting
- today's woman is also going for higher education

Para 2: more reasons

- today anyone can be trained to do any type of job
- individual differences between people may be more important than gender differences

Para 3: your opinion

- today societies are becoming more egalitarian
- Compare with earlier times

Conclusion

Nowadays, many people have to work longer time, and they feel more stressful than before. What are the reasons? What can employers do to make their life easier?

Stress is a big problem in today's workplace. While some stress is a normal part of the workplace, excessive stress can interfere with the employees' productivity and reduce their physical and emotional health. This essay shall delve into some causes of workplace stress and also suggest some steps that employers can take to reduce it.

There are a plethora of causes of stress in the workplace. To begin with, excessively high workloads, with unrealistic deadlines, makes people feel pressurized. Similarly, insufficient workloads, makes people feel that their skills are being underused and this too may cause stress. Then there may be a lack of interpersonal support or poor working relationships leading to a sense of isolation. Moreover, there may be times when people are asked to do a job for which they have insufficient experience or training.

Furthermore, stress can be caused by lack of job security, lack of career opportunities, or level of pay. It may also be caused by bullying, or harassment by management, which can leave employees feel undervalued and affect their self-esteem. Last but not least a poor physical working environment such as excessive heat, cold or noise, inadequate lighting, uncomfortable seating and malfunctioning equipment may also lead to stress.

Employers can take a lot of steps to cope with workplace stress. To begin with, they should diagnose what is causing stress. If overwork is causing stress in the business, then they should try to reduce people's workload. They should ensure that their employees' targets are challenging, but realistic, and make sure that employees take their full holiday entitlement. They should check that individuals are well-matched to the jobs they've got. From time to time they should review people's performance so that they know how they're doing. Then they would be able to get feedback from their staff about potential problems and identify any training they may need.

Employers should also consider whether the employee should work fewer hours, or otherwise vary their work. If any of the employees is sick, they should keep in touch. If their employee has experienced personal problems, such as a relationship break-up or an illness in the family, employers should take a sympathetic approach and if necessary, enable and encourage the employee to seek further help through their doctor or a counseling service.

To sum up, stress at the workplace is an issue of great concern. Unless the employers take some steps to reduce the problem, it can reduce the efficiency of workers, which ultimately is detrimental for the company.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall delve into some causes of workplace stress and also suggest some steps that employers can take to reduce it.

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: solutions

Para 4: More solution

Conclusion:



More and more people are working at home rather than in the workplace. Some people say this will bring benefits to the workers and their families, but others think it will bring stress to the home. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Working from home with the help of telephone lines, or, in other words, telecommuting has become very popular especially where internet connections are fast and reliable. Some individuals are of the opinion that it is advantageous for the employees and their families where as others think it leads to tension at home. This essay shall discuss both sides of the issue.

There are many advantages of telecommuting to employees and their families. To begin with, it saves time as no time is wasted commuting to and from the office. It also saves money as no spending on private or public transport has to be done. Furthermore the worker can look after minor family commitments like dropping the child to school etc. Although most of the work done by tele-workers is monitored, still a few minutes can be snatched at times. Finally, the tele-worker can do some side business side by side because of the time saved.

On the other hand, there are some problems which telecommuters and their families face. Firstly, a corner of the house has to be reserved for office work and a good internet connection is needed. This is very important because a person working from home has to be connected with his colleagues and seniors at all times during the office hours.

What is more, the expectations from the family members also increase. They sometimes forget that the person working from home has to concentrate on his office work and is only physically there with them. This leads to stress as it has generally been seen that telecommuters try to put in their best at work so that they are not laid off and keep reaping the benefits of telecommuting.

To conclude, as every garden has weeds, similarly telecommuting too has its downside. On the whole, advantages are much more than the disadvantages and some amount of stress at the home is a small price to pay for the vast amount of benefits associated with telecommuting.

**Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of telecommuting

Para 2: how it causes stress

Para 3: other cause of stress

Conclusion:

Travel from and to work is becoming more difficult. One solution is that employers should allow employees to work at home. Do you agree that the advantages are more than disadvantages?

Working from home with the help of telephone lines, or, in other words, telecommuting has become very popular especially where internet connections are fast and reliable. It is especially advantageous when the roads are congested with vehicles and traffic moves at a snail's pace during peak hours. Telecommuting is a win-win situation for both employers and employees. Definitely the pros are much more than the cons.

There are many advantages of telecommuting to employees. To begin with, it saves time as no time is wasted commuting to and from the office. It also saves money as no spending on private or public transport has to be done. Furthermore the worker can look after family commitments like dropping the child to school etc. Although, most of the work done by tele-workers is monitored, still a few minutes can be snatched at times.

Furthermore, there are many advantages to employers. Firstly, less office space is needed as the workers are working from home. It is a fact that land prices are exorbitant and it is very expensive to build large offices. Not only building, but maintaining offices is also very costly. Then, it has been seen that employees take less sick leave and other leaves. This, is also beneficial for employers.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages also. Firstly, a corner of the house has to be reserved for office work and a good internet connection is needed. What is more, the stimulating office atmosphere is missing and so it can become very boring at times. The employers also find it very difficult to supervise tele-workers.

To conclude, telecommuting has benefits as well as some disadvantages. However, the advantages are much more than disadvantages.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Advantages are much more

Para 1: Advantages of telecommuting

- saves time
- saves money
- worker can look after family commitments

Para 2: Advantages to employers

- less office space is needed as the workers are working from home
- maintaining offices is also very costly ( employers don't have to do that)
- employees take less sick leave and other leaves

Para 3: Disadvantages

- a corner of the house has to be reserved for office work
- Stimulating office atmosphere is missing
- Difficult for employers to supervise tele-workers

Conclusion: Advantages are more than disadvantages

Nowadays doctors can become very rich. Maybe they should not focus on profitable activities such as plastic surgery or looking after rich patients and concentrate more on patient's health, no matter how rich they are. Do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that the medical profession is a very lucrative field, but I disagree that doctors should not delve into money-making plastic surgeries and treatment of rich patients and focus on patients' health instead of looking at his pocket. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, I would like to say that, it takes years to become a doctor and medical education is also very expensive nowadays. No doubt, doctors must serve the society, but to serve the poor or needy, first they have to generate their own sources of income. For a doctor the status of the patient is not important and he has to treat anyone who comes to him. By rendering his services to the rich, he can provide help to the weaker sections and thus help society.

Secondly, I would like to add here that cosmetic surgeries are also part of people's health. They are part of mental health, which is also very important. It is not just the celebrities who go in for such surgeries. People having accidents in which facial features are affected, also need to go in for such surgeries. Can you imagine the mental status of a woman who has lost her external ear or has disfigured her nose in an accident?

Finally, there are children born with cleft lip or palate, who also need plastic surgery. Therefore, it would be wrong to say that doctors should not focus on such surgeries. There are doctors who are doing plastic surgeries absolutely free for children suffering from cleft lip and palate. They charge their rich patients but they never say no to a poor and needy one. Also, it is a well-known fact that as in any other profession, it is not all who earn very high.

To sum up, a doctor's duty is to treat patients and there is nothing wrong if he charges money from those who can afford to pay as long, as he is looking after the poor ones too. It would also be wrong to label all cosmetic surgeries as un-needed and profitable activities as they are also part of the health of the patients.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: I disagree that they should not delve into money-making plastic surgeries and treatment of rich patients and focus on patients' health instead of looking at his pocket

Para 1: it takes years to become a doctor and medical education is also very expensive nowadays.

Para 2: cosmetic surgeries are also part of people's health – mental health

Para 3: children born with cleft lip or palate, who also need plastic surgery

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

In companies promotions to high positions should be given to employees inside the company, not to someone from outside or new hiring. Do you agree or disagree?

It is a highly debatable issue whether promotions should be given to employees from within or new hiring should be done. The given statement is in favour of in-house hiring. It is necessary to look at the pros and cons of promoting from within the company before forming an opinion.

There are many benefits of hiring from within. To begin with, the employee is familiar with the company. No special training needs to be given. The person knows about the general working of the business. Moreover, employees feel that they will be rewarded for their extra effort and hard work. So, an employee who has been tested and has excelled at a lower level can be shifted to an upper level.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of hiring from within. Sometimes, the established policy of hiring from within makes some employees feel that they are entitled to promotion just because they have spent time with the company. Secondly, this can hurt the feelings of other employees who are not promoted. They may feel that they deserved the position better.

In my opinion, a manager or business owner needs to remember that all the hiring decisions need to be made with the idea of strengthening the business. This means that sometimes a person from within can be moved up and sometimes a highly qualified person can be hired from outside.

To conclude, each promotion needs to be done on a case-to-case basis and at all times the HR manager needs to do what is in the best interest of the company.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: It is necessary to look at the pros and cons of promoting from within the company before forming an opinion

Para 1: benefits to hiring from within

- the employee is familiar with the company. No special training needs to be given
- employees feel that they will be rewarded for their extra effort and hard work

Para 2: disadvantages of hiring from within

- Sometimes, the established policy of hiring from within makes some employees feel that they are entitled to promotion just because they have spent time with the company
- this can hurt the feelings of other employees who are not promoted

Para 3: sometimes a person from within can be moved up and sometimes a highly qualified person can be hired from outside.

Conclusion: each promotion needs to be done on a case to case basis

## Self-employed and working for companies or institutions, which is better?

Many people prefer to work in a company or institution where as some choose to open their own business and be self employed. It is necessary to look into the pros and cons of both before deciding which situation is more advantageous.

One of the main advantages of being self-employed is that you are completely self-reliant and can make decisions on your own. This can give you a great sense of freedom and allow you to do exactly what you want without any interference. What is more, your working day can be planned for your convenience allowing you to work when you want rather than when you have to. Moreover, if your business is successful, people will know that you alone should be given the credit. Finally, if you work for yourself, you decide your pay check. If you want more, you work more; that is the bottom line.

On the other hand, there are obvious advantages of working for companies or institutions. The main advantage is that you don't have to make any investment and so you have nothing to lose. You also get hands-on training in companies and the work environment is also very good. Additionally, if your company does well, you get bonuses and perks from time to time. Another important benefit is that, you get your regular pay check even if the company is going in loss. Finally, working for a reputed company is a status symbol.

I believe, it is better to work for few months or a couple of years in a company to get the know-how before embarking on your own business. Being self-employed can be very gratifying but it can also be very challenging. Many self employed people have said that in order to be successful in business you have to be prepared to work long hours and sacrifice your personal life. As B.C.Forbes once said," If you don't drive your business, you'll be driven out of business". A 1996 study found that over a quarter of businesses run by newly self-employed people failed within the first two years.

To conclude, being self-employed can be very fulfilling but not without difficulties, so working for a company would be a much safer option.

### Plan followed:

Intro: It is necessary to look into the pros and cons of both before deciding which situation is more advantageous

Para 1: Advantages of self-employed

Para 2: Advantages of working for others

Para 3: Challenges of being self-employed

Conclusion: working for others is better

Many people prefer to stay in the same type of work all their life, whereas others prefer to change the type of work. Discuss both sides and state your own opinion.

The world is changing rapidly. People today face numerous challenges in achieving a meaningful and fulfilling life. That is perhaps why some people change their job many times during their lifetime. However, there are still some who stick to the same job for life. This essay shall look into the benefits of both approaches.

There are many reasons why some people like sticking to one job. Firstly, the chances of promotion are much more because of longevity of service. Furthermore, they find greater depth of satisfaction from their working relationships. There is also much better work-life balance if a person's job is stable and secure.

On the other hand, there are some strong benefits that can come from job-hopping. One of the major reasons for changing jobs is a better pay package, which can help to lessen the financial burden of an individual or family. Secondly, the experience that is formed through a change in job can be beneficial in the future. Individuals with a wider range of job experiences and skill sets are seriously considered for new job openings. Moreover, those who have a wide range of careers under their belt also have more job security. If they lose their job, they can seek out jobs in different career fields, as opposed to one career field.

What is more, it is generally seen that earlier on in life people settle for whatever job they can get. Job satisfaction at that time is not given any priority. But, later on when the person is a bit comfortable, then changing the job and doing something, which the heart desires is better because it gives more personal fulfillment. By changing jobs a person may finally discover a job, which gives him the maximum job satisfaction.

To sum up, it can be said that changing jobs several times during a lifetime, may bring some challenges in life, but overall it is a positive development.

**Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: reasons why some people like sticking to one job

Para 2: benefits that can come from job hopping

Para 3: More benefits

Conclusion: changing jobs is better

Many people want to have a successful career and a happy family life both. What problems are involved in combining a career and family life? How to overcome such problems?

It is undeniable that everyone dreams to have both - a prosperous career and a contented family. However, there seem to be a lot of problems preventing people from achieving that goal. This essay shall discuss these problems and suggest some solutions.

The first problem is that today's world is ruled by money and so people devote a lot of time to their work or business. They have become workaholics. As a result, they fail to draw a line between work and family. Second reason is the cut-throat competition of today. Young people, new to their job have to put in their time and effort to meet the expectations of their employers. Similarly, those who run their own businesses have to drive their business otherwise their business can drive them out. Another problem is that the family expectations are soaring higher and higher day by day. The earning hand is expected to fulfil all those expectations as well as give time to his family. Sometimes, it becomes difficult to live up to those expectations and this leads to stress.

The solutions are not simple. People have to learn to set their priorities. Some things have to be sacrificed for the sake of others. Effective time management is very important. The most severe problem existing among most people tends to be their unsuccessful time management. Then, people should learn to switch the office button off, once they come home. Practicing some exercise regime for a few minutes every day can keep a person physically fit enough to have a successful work-life balance.

The non-working members of the families too can help in this respect. They should try to support, to care and to understand the efforts that others are making. One meal of the day should be fixed which all members have to have together. A more practical way to be considered might be setting up family plans, for example, a monthly family trip or weekly picnic, to share some happy time and memories together.

Summing up, I believe that with a mutual understanding of each other and continuous efforts, people will eventually find the balance point of their life and work.

**Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall discuss these problems and suggest some solutions.

Para 1: Problems

Para 2: Solutions

Para 3: More solutions

Conclusion:

In many countries, workers over 60 can still be found in the workplace. However, some people think that this may cause social problems and they should be retired. Do you agree or disagree?

It is true that mandatory retirement age is being extended in many nations and this is causing some problems in society. Nonetheless, I disagree that such workers should be retired. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, we have to face the reality that today we belong to a graying society and the latest demographic trends show that very soon one in four persons will be over the age of 60. Can we afford to retire such a huge population? The answer is a definite 'no'. If they don't work they are a liability on the government, as then the government has to provide pensions. But, if they work they remain independent and at the same time pay taxes.

Another reason for keeping such people working is that they have years of experience, which can go waste if they retire early. No doubt, young people are more energetic and work more enthusiastically, but the older employees know the ins and outs of the company. Someone has rightly said that 'a new broom sweeps clean but an old broom knows the corners'. What is more, these employees also do not do job-hopping and are more loyal to the company they work for. They are also prepared to work for less, which is ultimately beneficial to the company or organisation they work for.

Those who wish to see them retired soon, have the problem of unemployed youth in their mind. Undoubtedly, youth unemployment also is a big problem as it leads to violence and crime in the society. The young people are very energetic and if this energy is not channelized in the right direction then they can go astray and cause problems. Job openings should be created for them in some way or the other. However, if the elderly are retired earlier, we shall be adding more burden on these young shoulders to support a burgeoning dependent population.

To sum up, retiring people above 60 would be unwise and unpractical decision, considering the changing demographic trends towards an ageing society.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: I disagree that such workers should be retired.

Para 1: 1<sup>st</sup> reason why the older people should not be retired – graying society – elderly need to earn

Para 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> reason - they have years of experience which can go waste if they retire early

Para 3: Opponents view and then refute it

Conclusion: reiterate opinion



There is too much stress in the workplace. What can employees and employers do about it?

Stress is a big problem in today's workplace. While some stress is a normal part of the workplace, excessive stress can interfere with the employees' productivity and reduce their physical and emotional health. This essay shall delve into some causes of workplace stress and also suggest some steps that employers and employees can take to reduce it.

There are a plethora of causes of stress in the workplace. To begin with, excessively high workloads, with unrealistic deadlines, makes people feel pressurized. Similarly, insufficient workloads, makes people feel that their skills are being underused, and this may cause stress. Then there may be a lack of interpersonal support or poor working relationships leading to a sense of isolation. Moreover, there may be times when people are asked to do a job for which they have insufficient experience or training.

Furthermore, stress can be caused by lack of job security, lack of career opportunities or level of pay. It may also be caused by bullying, or harassment by management, which can leave employees feel undervalued and affect their self-esteem. Last but not least, a poor physical working environment such as excessive heat, cold or noise, inadequate lighting, uncomfortable seating and malfunctioning equipment may also lead to stress.

Employers can take a lot of steps to cope with workplace-stress. To begin with, they should diagnose what is causing stress. If overwork is causing stress in the business, then they should try to reduce people's workload. They should ensure that their employees' targets are challenging, but realistic, and make sure that employees take their full holiday entitlement. They should check that individuals are well-matched to the jobs they've got. If any of the employees is sick, they should keep in touch. If their employee has experienced personal problems, such as a relationship break-up or an illness in the family, employers should take a sympathetic approach and if necessary, enable and encourage the employee to seek further help through their doctor or a counseling service.

The employees can also take some steps to reduce their stress. They should take frequent breaks and relax. They should realize that the opposite of stress is relaxation and should avoid working in coffee and lunch breaks. Listening to music while driving to work also helps to reduce stress. A little exercise every day is a good stress buster. At the day's end, they should leave work behind and focus on plans for the evening. One should work to live and not live to work.

To sum up, stress at the workplace is an issue of great concern. However, employees and employers can take steps to reduce it.

**Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall delve into some causes of workplace stress and also suggest some steps that employers can take to reduce it.

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: solutions by employers

Para 4: solutions by employees

Conclusion:

**Many jobs used to be done at home by hand, but nowadays an increasing number of them are done using machines instead. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this development.**

Modern technology has equipped us with machines. There are positive and negative effects of these machines on the individual and the society, which I shall highlight in this essay. Overall the cons outweigh the pros.

On the positive side, machines are faster, more convenient and energy saving. Households and industries are much facilitated with machines. Personal use of machines gives people more free time to spend with family and pursue hobbies. Likewise, industrial use of machines reduces manpower for work and increases output. In the words of Oscar Wilde – “The fact is that civilization requires slaves. The Greeks were quite right there. Unless there are slaves to do the ugly, horrible, uninteresting work, culture and contemplation become almost impossible. Human slavery is wrong, insecure, and demoralizing. On mechanical slavery, on the slavery of the machine, the future of the world depends.”

On the negative side, machines reduce the need of manual work, which can lead to unemployment especially in the developing countries. What is more, insufficient knowledge of machine handling and operating is detrimental to uneducated workers and they end up getting injuries or disabilities while working with machines. Technical failures can also disturb the whole working system and lead to losses.

Other negative effects of machines are on the health of individuals especially the housewives who rely heavily on machines for the household chores. Machines are a failure where creative work is required. For example, the unique and original work done by many artisans can never be reproduced by any machines. It has been rightly said that a machine can do the work of a thousand ordinary men but no machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.

Overall, the negative effects of machines outweigh the positive effects on the individual and society. In order to meet the employment needs of the population, a balance has to be maintained between manual work and mechanization.

**Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of machines

Para 2: Disadvantages of machines

Para 3: Other negative effects

Conclusion: Machines are good but should be used judiciously in developing countries because may lead to unemployment

There are some violent cartoon characters on TV such as Mickey Mouse, which bring negative influence to children. Do you agree or disagree? What types of TV programs are suitable for children?

A child's mind is like a sponge. It absorbs everything children see and hear. If they are constantly exposed to cartoons with violence and fighting it will affect them morally and may lead to teenage violence in the future. Therefore, I agree that violence in cartoons has a detrimental effect on children. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, the major effect that has been proven by psychological research is that the children, who watch cartoons full of violence, may become less sensitive to the pain and suffering of others. They do not fear violence nor are they bothered by violence in general. If one character gets killed, the other cartoon characters don't care, and they may even laugh. TV makes violence and even death seem funny and unreal. Children do not learn to respect life because violence shown on television desensitizes them.

Secondly, children try to copy what they see and as a result become aggressive by nature. They cannot tell the difference between real and unreal. The characters in the cartoons are make-believe. Young children are unable to realize that when a character attacks someone it is not real and should not be imitated. Children have imaginative play, which is very important for their characters' development. Unfortunately, research proves that watching violent cartoons decreases the imaginative play for the children, and increases the imitative play in which the child imitates the violent and aggressive actions observed in cartoons.

There are many types of TV programs, which may be better for children. Educational cartoons are a good way to instill positive values in a child. However, it is the parent's duty to make their children watch cartoons, that entertain and educate them, without being violent. Parents must watch the cartoons with their children, and evaluate these cartoons together. Talking with the children about the cartoons they watched is very significant, because parents then will be able to know if these cartoons affect their children positively or not. The government should also take steps to increase the amount of educational programming available to children.

To conclude, children will try to mimic anything they see or hear and cartoon violence is no exception. So, it is the onus of the parents to see to it that they do not see violent cartoon programs and see educational cartoons instead.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree

Para 1: First negative effect of violence on TV – desensitizes children

Para 2: Second negative effect of violence on TV – children imitate the characters and become aggressive

Para 3: Examples of good programs for children. Parents and Government's onus.

Conclusion: Restate opinion

Some people argue that a growing number of young people spend too much time in watching TV. Why does this phenomenon happen? And what kinds of activities should be encouraged to them?

Television has become ubiquitous nowadays. Most families have more than one television in their houses. This essay shall outline some of the reasons why the youth of today spend too much time watching, TV and also suggest some other activities, which they should be motivated to do.

First of all, television is usually one of the first media, which young people meet with. Parents use this medium as baby sitters for their convenience. This habit continues as the child grows. What's more, TV seems to be the most convenient medium. There's no need to move anywhere, just to push the button and then they can see a completely different world. Then, there is the peer pressure; those who are not up to date with the latest programmes on TV, are considered as inferior by their peers.

In addition, the TV of today has so much to offer. There are uncountable channels running 24/7 to suit every taste. The satellite TV has brought in all foreign channels right into our bedrooms. The youth of the global village of today keep themselves at par with each other through these channels. Last but not least, the reality TV shows of today such as Dance India Dance and the Indian Idol have given an opportunity to today's youth to show their talent to the whole world and get name and fame overnight. So, because of all these reasons, the youngsters of today watch too much TV.

Because of TV, children are being alienated from the outside world. They should travel, read books and play outdoor games. Parents and teachers should take the onus of diverting children's mind away from TV and towards other healthier activities. Sports stadiums, gyms and playgrounds should be there in cities, so that the youth are motivated to use them. Parents should act as role-models, by themselves staying away from TV as much as possible. TV should not be there in each and every room of the house. One TV per family should be there. All these steps can prove very useful to motivate the youngsters for other activities.

In summary, there are a plethora of reasons why young people watch too much TV. There should be some control on this and they should be encouraged to do other outdoor activities also.

#### Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons of watching too much TV

Para 2: More reasons

Para 3: other activities – travel - read books - play outdoor games

Conclusion:

Some people think that watching TV programmes can help children's development while others disagree. What is your opinion?

Watching TV programs can help children's development in both positive and negative ways. If there is a limit to the number of hours a child sits in front of TV and a control over the type of channels a child is exposed to, then TV can be very good. However, if children watch too much TV and if they are allowed to watch almost any type of program then TV can be detrimental for them.

Television definitely has its good side. It can be entertaining and educational, and can open up new worlds for children, giving them a chance to travel the globe, learn about different cultures, and gain exposure to ideas they may never encounter in their own community. Shows with a pro-social message can have a positive effect on children's behavior; programs with positive role models can influence them to make positive lifestyle changes. The opponents may say that there are plenty of different medium of information such as books, magazines, teachers etc. But, in our modern world children must learn faster and use all contemporary technologies in order to succeed in competition.

On the other hand, watching too much TV can be very harmful. The major hazard is a matter of what children watch. There are many contents that are unsuitable for young people, like violence or porn. These can badly disturb a process of mental development and make children less sensitive. Secondly, television may affect students' schoolwork. Many students spend most time watching TV in the night although they have a lot of homework to do. Some young people even watch TV until midnight. Therefore, it not only affects their work, but also influences their spirits and physical strength. In the morning, students may feel sleepy in class.

Finally, the most serious problem is that television viewing may affect young people's health. It not only affects their eyesight but also leads them to be obese. Children who watch TV are more likely to be inactive and tend to snack while watching TV. On top of that, many TV ads encourage unhealthy eating habits. After-school TV ads target children with ads for unhealthy foods and beverages, like fast food and sugary drinks.

In conclusion, it can be said that it is really important to watch TV properly. Only when children's TV programs are chosen wisely and watched moderately, can they benefit them in positive ways. Therefore, parents should take the responsibility and supervise their children's TV watching activities.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: If watched in moderation, TV is beneficial – otherwise detrimental

Para 1: Positive effects

Para 2: Negative effects

Para 3: Other negative effect

Conclusion – reiterate opinion

Most children want to watch the same TV programs and play the same computer games like their friends do. Should parents allow them to do like this?

Psychologists, dealing with the study of child development, believe that peer relationships provide a unique context for cognitive, social and emotional development of children. This is the reason why most children engage in parallel play and tend to do same types of activities as their peers do. A child who copies other children may pick up good habits but may also pick up bad ones. So, a sensitive parenting is required and children should not be allowed to watch same types of TV shows and same types of games as their friends watch and play. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Firstly, all TV shows are not safe for children to watch. Even some cartoon characters are so violent that children learn nothing fruitful from those programs. Such programs may make them insensitive to the pain of others. It is surprising that even watching news could have negative outcomes for a child. For example, sometimes news portray suicides glamorously and children may take it as a viable option for stress. As a result of this cases of 'copycat suicide' occur. Therefore parents should not allow their child to see such shows even if his/her friend is watching the same.

Similarly, all computer games are not good for children. Mind games like solitaire are good but some action games and fighting games can harm children. For example, in a small fight between my niece and nephew last year, my nephew hit my niece so badly that she suffered internal bleeding and had to be hospitalized for few days. When I asked my nephew from where he had learnt to hit like that, he replied he had learnt it from a computer game. In short, children mimic everything innocently without knowing the consequences, so a constant check is required.

Moreover, if parents allow children to watch or play anything just because their friends do so, then children start thinking that they can get away with this excuse every time and by the time parents realize that children are going astray, it may be too late. So, it is necessary to keep an eye on what their children are playing or watching on TV.

To conclude, I reiterate my opinion that children should not be allowed to watch the same TV programmes that their friends watch, or play the same games which their friends play just because their friends are doing so. Parents should carefully monitor what their children play or see.

**Plan followed:**

Intro: Children should not be allowed to watch and play same type of TV programs and same type of computer games as their friends watch and play.

Para1: All TV shows are not safe for children to watch.

Para 2: All computer games are not good for children.

Para 3: if parents allow children to watch or play anything just because their friends do so, then children start thinking that they can get away with this excuse every time and by the time parents realize that children are going astray, it may be too late

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

Some parents believe that watching TV and playing computer games should be limited and substituted by reading books. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.

TV and computer games have become an obsession with children and therefore some parents believe that the time children spend on TV and electronic games should be cut down and allotted to reading books. I definitely agree with this perspective. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are many advantages of watching TV and playing PC games, provided it is done in moderation. To begin with, video game playing introduces children to computer technology. Secondly, some games provide practice in problem solving and logic e.g. Age of Empires. Video games have proved to improve visual skills. They also improve motor and spatial skills. Children who play video games have better reflexes. Watching TV also is very educative for children.

On the other hand, reading books is also important because it provides an active learning for learners while TV is a passive one. Reading can greatly enhance people's imagination. For example, the individuals make different images in their mind when they read some articles or sentences and then use their imagination to put the story together whereas the TV audience just passively accepts information from the TV screen.

What is more, reading can also contribute a lot to language skills. Reading begins the journey through one's language development stages. Reading opens doors to all kinds of new worlds for people. Reading and writing are important ways we use language to communicate.

To summarise, on the whole these games and TV are very good, but only if a balance is maintained between these activities and reading books. For the holistic development of children all these are required. The onus is on the parents to allocate equal time for these to their children.

**Plan followed**

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Advantages of TV and computer games

Para 2: Importance of books

Para 3: More advantages of reading

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

Young people have different ideas and attitudes with their parents and grandparents. What are the differences? What problems may be caused?

The differences in the thinking of parents and children have been there since age-old times. These differences are referred to as the 'Generation Gap'. This essay shall delve into these differences and the problems caused by these differences.

To begin with, it is generally seen that older people have more traditional views on the world. For example, younger people tend to have a more relaxed view on marriage and divorce, whereas our parents and certainly our grandparents considered marriage to be a sacred and important institution. What is more, parents have many years of life experience behind them, and want to impart this knowledge to their children, but the children do not always want to hear. They want to be free, independent, to live their own lives, and make their own choices.

Furthermore, the older generation believes in going to bed early and getting up early, where as the young belong to the 24/7 society, where the waking and sleeping patterns are different. What is more, the elderly want them to wear traditional clothes, where as the youth want to wear the global wear that is jeans and T-shirts because they feel comfortable in it. Another difference is that the parents want their children to follow the careers of their choice. However, youngsters want to walk on the un-trodden path and pave new ways for themselves.

These differences can lead to a strained relationship between young people and their parents. Children can rebel against their parents because of this generation gap. Today's 'Generation Gap' is a lot different from the 'Generation Gap' of yesteryears. Earlier children were dependent on their parents and grandparents for all knowledge and information. They accepted meekly what was told them to do. Today's children belong to the age of the IT revolution and are part of a global village. In many ways they are much more well-informed than their parents and grandparents. Today, the onus is on the parents and grandparents to walk fast and catch up with their children to bridge this gap.

To sum up, I would like to say that generation gap is nothing new and only the parents can take a step forward in this direction and bridge this gap.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall look into the causes and problems caused by the generation gap.

Para 1: Differences

Para 2: More differences

Para 3: Effects

Conclusion: Onus on parents to bridge the gap



Parents often buy their children many toys. What are the advantages and disadvantages of children having a large number of toys? Use examples from your personal knowledge and experience.

Toys are not just playthings. They are the building blocks of our child's future. They teach our children about the world and about themselves. That is precisely why parents always want to provide their children with toys. The issue of concern here is regarding the number of toys children are given. While some parents fill their children's rooms to the ceiling with toys, others limit the number of toys that children have to play with.

On the one hand, there are a few advantages of children having a plethora of toys. They have more variety to play with and they can pick out their personal favourites from those toys according to their taste. Moreover, parents can be satisfied that their children have enough to play with when they are themselves busy.

On the other hand, too many toys prevent kids from fully developing their gift of imagination. Children learn to be more creative with fewer toys. To cite an example, an experiment was conducted in Germany in which all toys of a kindergarten classroom were removed for three months. It was observed that children soon began to use their basic surroundings to invent games and use imagination in their playing.

Furthermore, children with fewer toys establish better social skills. They learn how to share with other children. Also, they develop a greater love for reading, writing, and art. Fewer toys also make children to become resourceful by solving problems with only the materials at hand. And resourcefulness is a gift with unlimited potential.

Children with fewer toys become less selfish. Those who get everything, believe they can have everything they want. This attitude is definitely detrimental to a child's psychology. They do not even value the toys they have. Another advantage of not having a basement full of toys is that children are more likely to play outside and have the much needed physical exercise which results in healthier and happier bodies. Finally, fewer toys result in a less-cluttered, cleaner and healthier home.

To conclude, toys are very much needed for the development of children, but there should be a limit on the number of toys a child should have. Excess of everything is bad.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: a balanced approach as it is a discuss essay.

Para 1: Advantages of having too many toys

Para 2: Advantages of fewer toys

Para 3: Other advantages of fewer toys

Para 4: more advantages of fewer toys

Conclusion: fewer toys are better

Today, majority of children are raised by their grandparents due to the fact that their parents are busy working. To what extent do you think it affects the whole family?

It is irrefutable that both parents are working nowadays and as a result children have to be raised by either maids or grandparents. Definitely, grandparents are better than any other option and this situation affects the family in both positive and negative ways, which I shall highlight in this essay.

On the positive side, looking after the grandchildren keeps the grandparents energetic and vibrant. Grandparents bathe, feed and even read books to the child. This leads to a sort of symbiotic relation in which both grandparents and grandchildren are benefited. In other words we can say that it is a win-win situation for both. Grandparents don't suffer from loneliness and depression, which is very common at that age, and children are also well looked after.

Moreover, such a situation encourages joint family system. Therefore, all the benefits of a joint family are there. There is security in the family as we all know that there is security in numbers. Another big advantage is that grandparents teach moral values to children. If grandparents do not look after children then parents use TVs as baby-sitters and children can become couch potatoes.

On the negative side, it is generally seen that grandparents are over-doting and, out of love, may pamper and spoil the grandchildren. Another disadvantage is that if there is not enough harmony between the parents and grandparents then it can lead to frustration and spoil the whole atmosphere of the house. In such cases children are the worst sufferers.

To conclude, it is very beneficial if grandparents look after their grandchildren. Both parents are free to pursue their careers, grandchildren learn moral values, are looked after well and grandparents enjoy themselves and don't suffer from loneliness and depression.

**Plan followed in the essay**

Intro: address the essay question appropriately.

Para 1: Advantages to grandparents and children

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion: it is very beneficial if grandparents look after their grandchildren.

It is better for children if the whole families (e.g. aunts, uncles and grandparents) are involved in the children's upbringing, rather than their fathers and mothers only. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

(Agree)

The rising trend of nuclear families and its effect on today's children has led to the question whether children should be raised in joint families in which aunts, uncles and grandparents contribute in bringing up children. Although a joint family is not without its drawbacks, I firmly believe that a joint family is better in raising children. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, in a joint family, children's upbringing becomes very easy, as there are so many people to take care of the child. So being the mother or father, even if you are busy in life with work or any other commitments, you have no need to worry about your child as you know he/she will be taken care of, fed properly and even made sure that homework is completed. This is a huge relief especially in times of sickness of the child. So in a joint family, you can be totally focused as far as your career or work is concerned, without the tension of your children.

Secondly, a joint family teaches the values of adjusting and flexibility, which can go a long way in life when such children marry or when they have to live an independent life in a totally new or different environment, which unfortunately people brought up in a nuclear family with all comforts and less adjustments might find difficult. Children living in a joint family learn how to deal with people and understand the dynamics of human psychology, as they are staying with various people of different attitude, perception and behaviour. In the long run, it becomes easy to gauge and understand people and their emotions.

Finally, parents do not have to deal with attention-related problems, which are usually by-products of nuclear family systems, where the child, finding both parents absent and no one else from the family, usually resorts to attention seeking behavior. Such behaviour can manifest as being sad, insolent, and reclusive among other things.

To conclude, in a joint family a child is reared by a number of people, thus dividing work and saving time. The child also learns qualities of understanding, adjusting, & selflessness. For working parents, it's a blessing to have reliable, trustworthy caretakers for their child. Therefore it is better to raise a child in a joint family.

### **Plan Followed**

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Advantages of joint families

Para 2: child also learns qualities of understanding, adjusting, & selflessness.

Para 3: No risk of attention-related disorders

Conclusion: Reiterate your point

It is better for children if the whole families (e.g. aunts, uncles and grandparents) are involved in the children's upbringing, rather than their fathers and mothers only. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

(disagree)

It is a highly debatable issue whether children should be raised in joint families in which aunts, uncles and grandparents contribute in bringing up children or by parents alone as in nuclear families. Although a joint family has many advantages, I firmly believe that a nuclear family is better in raising children. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, in a nuclear family, parents can bring up their children with their own set of values and principles, without any "interference". This is something that can be easily established in a nuclear family, wherein the child has to follow only one set of rules, and is not confused with varying opinions. For instance, if a person's values are not that traditional, and he wants his child to be more broad-minded, he may not be able to do so in a joint family, if his independent values don't match with that of the majority.

Secondly, there is more space for individuality and self-expression in a nuclear family set-up. Nuclear families make the child more self-reliant and decisive as he/she is not as interdependent on a large number of family members to make decisions and take action. This independent streak can come in handy, as the child grows into an adult and has to make many decisions himself/herself.

Finally, communication channels between the child and parent can also be more open and transparent, in a nuclear family, as parents have their attention focused on their child, without having to divide their time with too many household responsibilities and between other members of the household.

To conclude, in a nuclear family, a child is reared by the parents alone. Therefore, they can instill whatever values they want in their child. The child is also more independent and has better relations with parents. Therefore it is better to raise a child in a nuclear family.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Disagree. Nuclear family is better in raising children.

Para1: parents can bring up their children with their own set of values and principles, without any "interference".

Para 2: Nuclear families make the child more self-reliant and decisive as he/she is not as interdependent on a large number of family members to make decisions and take action.

Para 3: communication channels between the child and parent can also be more open and transparent, in a nuclear family

Conclusion: Reiterate your point

Some people think parents should control the behaviour of children from a very young age but others think we should give them more freedom. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Young children are beginners. They have lots to learn and one of the biggest lessons they must learn is to behave or act in an acceptable manner. So parents have the onus of instilling the best values in their children. Some people say that parents must pull the reins on their children from a really young age but others opine that children should be given freedom. This essay shall look into both views.

Firstly, restrictions create responsible and respectful children who, in turn, mature into respectful adults. They know the value of respect for others. They know the importance of relationships. They know their cultural values as well. They know their boundaries. Moreover, children are like sponges, which very easily absorb what is taught to them. If you teach them good values, they will imbibe them. If parents don't realize their role and don't bother much, children will learn from other sources like TV and the people around them. They learn whatever they see and observe and if no one tells them at an early age what is wrong and what is right, they may learn vulgarity and violence. Later on parents may find it impossible to make them unlearn those things.

Furthermore, if parents don't control their child's behavior from a very young age, they may fall into bad company. They may start taking drugs under peer pressure. Once children become drug addicts, it is very difficult to bring them to normalcy once again.

On the other hand, those who believe that children should be given freedom are of the view that if children are controlled too much, they may become rebels. It would also snub their individuality and creativity. They may withdraw into a shell and sometimes go into depression. Therefore, they opine that children should be handled with soft gloves.

To conclude, parents are responsible for bringing children into this world and it is their responsibility for instilling good behavior in them. So, the earlier they do so the better. If they keep waiting, things may go out of hand.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: restrictions create responsible and respectful children

Para 2: if parents don't control their child's behavior from a very young age, they may fall into bad company

Para 3: if children are controlled too much, they may become rebels

Conclusion: Controlling them is better

Many adults think that childhood and schooldays are the best years of a person's life. What's the reason for this? Do you agree or disagree?

Everyone has nostalgic memories of one's childhood days and would like to return to them if given a chance. Therefore, it goes without saying that childhood and early school days are the golden periods of one's life. However, the later school years, the teenage years, do have some stresses.

To begin with, there are many positive aspects of being a child. One of the biggest benefits is in the area of sleep. Generally, parents encourage children to 'go to bed early' for one reason or another. Sleep seems to be something that most adults wish they had more of. Another benefit of being a child is in the area of responsibility. The only person a child is responsible for is himself. Life is therefore less complicated and slower-paced. In addition, children are normally not engaged in full-time work. This means the stress of finding and keeping a job is not a part of their life.

Moreover, people tend to treat children with love and care and generally tend to ignore their mistakes, which if done by an adult are taken seriously. A child is inexperienced, and lacks understanding about life; he or she must go through a period of learning basic 'life skills' such as manners and appropriate language. All this is also a fun part of growing up.

On the other hand, the teenage years have some tensions. Teenagers face the identity crisis, which means that they are neither considered children, nor adults. If they play like small children, they are rebuked and if they sit with adults, they are asked to go away. They also face some hormonal changes of puberty, which are very stressful for some. Then they have the stress of choosing their career because the subjects relating to one's career have to be finalized in secondary school. Nonetheless, these stresses are minor if compared to the responsibilities and tensions of adulthood.

To conclude, childhood for most people is certainly a stress-free time. I believe that childhood and primary school days are among the best times in a person's life. Teenage years do have their downside but still they are better than older years.

**Plan followed**

Intro: Agree

Para 1: reasons

Para 2: Other reasons

Para 3: stresses or teenage years

Conclusion: childhood and early schooldays the best.

Some people believe that children should be brought up in cities. Others believe that countryside offers a better environment for children. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some people believe that growing up in a big city provides children with many advantages, whereas others, including some educators and social scientists, agree that the countryside is better for the health and physical development of children. This essay shall discuss both views. I, however, side with the former view.

Admittedly, there are some advantages of raising children in the countryside. Firstly, the countryside is virtually pollution free as a result of which children can breathe fresh and healthy air. Secondly, parents do not have to worry about where their children are playing because there is lots of open space and there is no risk of being hit by any vehicles. Finally, children brought up in the countryside are more in touch with their culture and tradition than those of cities. In villages people have still retained the community spirit whereas in cities people don't know their next-door neighbours.

On the other hand, living in a big city almost guarantees children a chance of receiving a better education than in the countryside. Cities are equipped with more schools and facilities such as large libraries, museums, zoos and other educational establishments that can assist children in their overall education. Parents can choose where to send their children to school based upon their own set of requirements and special needs or abilities of the children. In contrast, the children living in the countryside normally have few, if any, choices concerning where they attend school and the educational facilities mentioned above are also next to nil.

In addition to a better variety of educational opportunities, children can learn through more cultural experiences when growing up in a big city. Since cities are busy places with events always going on, on the weekends children can have the opportunity to attend concerts or view exhibits in museums and be exposed to many different kinds of people with different backgrounds. On the other hand, children in the countryside are very limited as to their exposure to cultural events and the types of people they see. Seldom do they ever even enter a museum or come into contact with people different from themselves. This can limit their knowledge and views of people outside their communities.

To conclude, while the countryside surely provides benefits such as cleaner air, less noise and a calmer lifestyle, the benefits of living in a big city far outweigh those of living in the countryside. This is due to the fact that children can gain a better education and more cultural experiences when they grow up in a big city.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall discuss both views before forming an opinion.

Para 1: advantages of raising children in the countryside

Para 2: Advantages of raising children in cities

Para 3: more advantages

Conclude: Raising in cities is better

In many countries, children are getting fatter and less fit day by day. Why is it so and suggest solutions.

It is irrefutable that childhood obesity is a burgeoning problem these days in many parts of the world. In this essay I intend to discuss the causes of this problem and suggest some ways forward.

The most important reason is unhealthy diet. Children are attracted to fast food, which is rich in sugar and fat. They are ignorant of what constitutes a healthy diet. Parents nowadays are busy in their work and are not present to guide their children. To add to it, children are bombarded with advertisements from fast food companies.

Another important factor is that children are much less active than they used to be. In the past young people took part in activities that burned a lot of energy. However, today they spend a lot of their time indoors, sitting in front of the computers or playing video games. This sedentary life style is playing havoc with the health of young people.

There are a number of steps that need to be taken to solve this problem. The first is to educate children about nutrition. Health education should be incorporated in school curricula. Schools should organize compulsory lessons to explain the main elements of a healthy diet and teach pupils how to prepare healthy meals. Parents should also cook healthy delicious meals at home so that children are deterred from eating fast food. Furthermore, governments should have some restrictions on the type of adverts shown in children's programmes. Finally, children should be encouraged to take part in sports. Schools have a great role to play in this.

To conclude, childhood obesity is a serious problem and it should be tackled on a war footing, otherwise the young people of today will have a very unhealthy middle and old age.

**Plan followed:**

Intro: In this essay I intend into the causes of this problem and suggest some ways forward

Para 1: First reason

Para 2: Another reason

Para 3: solutions

Conclusion



People say that a child's success is dependent on the way parents bring them up. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Success in a person's life does not come overnight. One cannot buy success from a store. It is something that requires the continuous investment of time and effort by the parents. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that parents nurturing contributes a great deal to a child's success.

There is no doubt that the most important part is played by the parents in the upbringing of a child. Parenting consists of balanced development of children's physical, emotional and intellectual qualities. Parents provide shelter, food and clothes and also promote the healthy growth of their children. Parents provide safe loving environment and have a mental bonding with their children. All these things do play a part in the child's success in his later life.

Undoubtedly, there are other factors such as good schooling, good teachers, peers and the media. These too have a role in success of a child; but ultimately it is the parents who select the schools for their children. Good schools have a good infrastructure and good faculty. They also have regular parent-teacher meetings. These interactions between parents and the pedagogues are helpful in understanding the aptitude of the child and guiding him towards the right career path.

Furthermore, the friend circle of the child also matters in success of the child. Here too, there is the role of the parents. Good parenting involves keeping an eye on the child's peers. If parents are themselves friendly with the child then their children will introduce them to their friends also. This is very important in the most impressionable adolescent years of a child's life. Finally, there is the role of media. Here too parents can intervene and monitor what their children are watching.

To sum up, parenting is not an easy task. Becoming a parent is the easiest part, whereas, being a conscious and positive parent is a momentous task. Parenting is the most important role one faces in a lifetime. Parents who provide an encouraging environment for their children are rewarded when, as adults, their children become successful in life.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Parents' role

Para 2: Role of schools – but suggest that ultimately it is the parents role

Para 3: Role of peers and media – but ultimately it is the parents role

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

Providing children with pocket money on a weekly basis can benefit them in the future. Do you agree or disagree?

I definitely agree that providing children with a little amount of pocket money on a weekly basis is helpful to their development. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

Firstly, giving children a small amount of money instills in them a sense of independence and responsibility towards spending the money the right way. They learn and understand that the amount of money is limited and they need to always choose between their various desires to ensure correct use of their pocket money. Children get into the habit of planned income and expenditure. They also learn about saving and budgeting. For e.g. if they want to buy a present for their mother's birthday, they will need to put aside some amount of money every month to collect the commensurate amount and buy the gift.

Secondly, parents who issue their children a minute weekly allowance encourage the development of their child's sense of responsibility. It makes them feel an important part of the family since they know that they get a part of the family's monthly income. Furthermore, giving your child a set amount every week can work out much cheaper in the long run provided you don't top it up with more money if your child runs out of money. Parents who don't give pocket money but buy children whatever they need would be surprised if they just total the amount they spend on their children's desires every week.

What is more, when children are given the independence to buy things themselves they become more aware of how much things cost, therefore they begin to see the value in the things they already have and other household items more clearly. They may start to treat the DVD player or PlayStation with a bit more respect, for example, and realize that with their limited money, they can't just run out to the shops and buy a new games console if the other one breaks. Giving pocket money to their kids saves a lot of time for grownups to buy small things for their children. They can utilize this time for other important tasks.

After analyzing how giving children a little cash on a weekly basis develops their financial comprehension and level of responsibility, it has been proven that this practice is more positive than negative. Thus, parents are encouraged to consider adopting this regime.

**Plan followed:**

Intro: Agree

Para1: 1<sup>st</sup> reason – learn and understand the value of money

Para 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> reason – encourage the development of a child's sense of responsibility.

3<sup>rd</sup> reason – can work out cheaper in the long run

Para 3: they begin to see the value of things they already have and other household items.

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

In some countries, the age of 18 means adults, while in others, it is older. What is your opinion and talk about the responsibility of an adult?

People are divided on the age of adulthood. Some people think that the graduation of high school makes a person an adult. Others think that the age of 21 is the age when childhood is replaced by adulthood. In my country, India, 18 is the age when a person is officially declared an adult. This essay shall deal with the responsibilities of an adult.

The first event that makes a person an adult is getting a job. The ability to earn his own money gives a person the opportunity to live independently from his parents. Personally, I think the first job is a very important experience in a person's life and it has a great impact on his personality. He learns how to manage his expenses and how to save money for the more important things. In addition to those benefits, one learns how to arrange his time in order to have all done on time.

The second event, which from my opinion deserves an attention, is the graduation from a college or university. I think it is a very essential step in one's life because this means the beginning of a new life with more responsibilities.

Finally, I believe that marriage has a great impact on a person's life. Marriage means an independent life from one's parents with a new person. It is a very great experience. Two persons create a new family and they face new difficulties and responsibilities.

In conclusion, I think that the list of events that make a person an adult can be continued. For example, getting a driving license has sometimes a very great impact on person's life. Another important event in a person's life is the army. I know many young men who served in the Army that changed them very much. They became more serious, self-confident and independent people. So, my point is that every person has different events that influence his life and make him an adult.

**Plan followed:**

Intro: This essay shall deal with the responsibilities of an adult

Para1: Graduation from college – getting a job and the responsibilities that come with it.

Para 2: voting rights – bank account – driving licence and the responsibilities that go with these rights.

Para 3: marriage and the responsibilities of setting up a new life.

Conclusion: So, my point is that every person has different events that influence his life and make him an adult.

Teenagers have problems at home and school. What difficulties are they facing now? What should parents and schools do to help them?

Teenage years are the most delicate years of a person's life. These are beautiful years but have their own share of difficulties. This essay shall delve into some problems teenagers face at home and school and also suggest some ways forward.

The main problem teenagers face at home is the identity crisis which means that they are neither considered children, nor adults. If they play like small children, they are rebuked and if they sit with adults, they are asked to go away. They also face some hormonal changes of puberty which are very stressful for some. To add to it parents have become workaholics and do not give the required time which teenagers need in these crucial years.

Furthermore, parents want to take decisions for their teenagers like selecting their subjects. They do not give any importance to the aptitude of the child and force the subjects of their choice on them. They also want their child to excel in everything which can lead to a lot of stress. They also press their teens to follow the traditional culture where as teens want to adopt the global culture which they are exposed to. To tackle these problems, parents need to spend quality time with their children in these impressionable years. The child's aptitude should not be ignored and choice of subject should be left on the teenager.

In school also teenagers are not without problems. Pressure of studies is just one problem. Classroom bullying by some students and favouritism shown by the teachers can be very stressful. To add to it some of them are being sexually harassed and abuse daily at school by other teenagers, teachers. Some of them are too hurt to tell anybody while others feel embarrassed to tell others. Peer pressure is also an issue of concern in these years. Teens can easily be swayed to take drugs under peer pressure. At school taking part in extra-curricular activities keeps teens happy. These activities act as stress-busters. Teachers should have an unbiased attitude and treat all students equally.

To conclude, there is no doubt that teenagers face a lot of problems at home and school but simple measures taken by parents and teachers can help make these years pleasant and memorable. The onus is on the parents and teachers to make these teenage years stress-free.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall delve into some problems teenagers face at home and school and also suggest some ways forward

Para 1: Problems at home

Para 2: More problems at home and solutions

Para 3: Problems at school and solutions

Conclusion:

More and more young children have mobile phone. Some people say it is a good thing for them, while others say it is a bad thing. What is your opinion?

Mobile phones have certainly become ubiquitous, especially in the hands of children. As with any other gadget of technology, cell phones also have pros and cons. If used wisely and within limits, the advantages are more than the disadvantages.

To begin with, if children have mobile phones, they feel safer because they are never out of contact with their parents or guardians. Cell phones provide a way to quickly contact someone if they are in trouble or are lost. Children having cell phones helps parents feel more at ease.

Secondly, having a mobile phone helps children to learn in a lot of different ways. First they learn about technology; about how to use the mobile phone. Second most phones today have apps through which they can access online courses and lessons which can be provided in fun ways and can in some cases instantly tell you if you have the right answer. It may even sometimes be possible to do homework on a phone and send it to the teacher. Even without the internet phones can be used to provide short assignments, or to provide reminders to study.

On the other hand, today's cell phones are not just phones; they are smart phones. They give too much power in the hands of the children. If misused, they can play havoc with the children's lives. Most parents cannot keep an eye on what their children are using the cell phone for. Secondly, children get distracted when crossing the road while texting on the phone is going on and this can lead to accidents.

I believe that merits of cell phones outstrip the demerits if parents make conscious effort to choose the right phone for their child. They can block unwanted calls, set time limits for phone usage, prevent access to web sites, set school-accepted usage limits, and find their child with the built-in GPS feature.

To sum up, for the safety of the child and to keep parents mind at ease, children should have the cell phone but the onus is on the parents to make the right choice of the phone.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: advantages are more than the disadvantages

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Para 4: Own opinion

Conclusion:

Children have the responsibility to take care of their older family members, but some people say that old people should not need to live with their families. What is your opinion?

It is a highly debatable issue whether old people should live with family or old-age homes. This is a very important issue because demographic trends suggest that we are part of a graying society in which the population of the elderly is growing by leaps and bounds. Although, it is the moral responsibility of children to look after their elderly, I have strong arguments to suggest that they should live separately.

Aged people should live separate because this will give them a feeling of independence. Moreover, by doing so, they will command more respect in the eyes of their children. It is irrefutable that relationships become strong and meaningful when people are not under the same roof. Hence, if aged people are away from their children physically, both will be closer to each other emotionally.

What is more, the mushroom growth of old age homes is ample evidence that they are a boon for the society. They give the opportunity to the elderly to be in the comfort of people of similar age and experience. They also remain healthy with timely day-to-day activities. In such homes, the elderly also get a chance to do some social service activities which in turn help the society.

Furthermore, the culture of the old age homes tends to refine some attitudes of the aged such as short temper and negative thinking. Old age homes are also a boon for those elderly who face social isolation in their own homes where their so-called loved ones neglect them badly and have no time for them.

To conclude, the elderly should live with people of their own age group, in old age homes, where they enjoy the retired period of their life nicely, comfortably and productively

#### Plan followed

Intro: Agree. Old people should live separately

Para 1: this will give them a feeling of independence. Moreover, by doing so, they will command more respect in the eyes of their children.

Para 2: Advantages of old age homes

- The elderly are in the comfort of people of similar age and experience.
- They also remain healthy with timely day-to-day activities
- also get a chance to do some social service activities which in turn help the society

Para 3: More advantages

- the culture of the old age homes tends to refine some attitudes of the aged such as short temper and negative thinking
- Old age homes are also a boon for those elderly who face social isolation in their own homes where their so-called loved ones neglect them badly and have no time for them.

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

**Nowadays, people are living an increasingly longer life and in many countries there are more old people than young people. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?**

Demographic trends show that we are heading for a graying society. The proportion of the old people is much more than the young. This essay shall look into the pros and cons of this trend.

This trend is creating many problems for the society. To begin with, more and more people who care for the elderly are needed. What is more, there is need for building more old people's homes and other care units. Another problem is that the government must spend more money on pensions. This is further complicated by the fact that there are lesser number of young people who have jobs and pay taxes. To add to it, more and more people have to work up to 65 and longer. They take away jobs that young adults need. Finally, an older labor force means that we are not as flexible and productive as countries that have young workers.

This trend has disadvantages for the old people themselves. As the people grow old, they go on becoming weaker and weaker and have to depend on their families to fulfill their needs. The families may get tired of their responsibilities in the long run. There would be a wider generation gap, and the old generation would get a culture shock. Moreover, they might get bored of living such a long life as there would be no goals for them.

On the other hand there are some merits of such situation. The societies would be relatively stable with lesser crime and violence. Moreover, it would be good for people who want to see their great grand-children. Old generation would be able to share more experiences with young generations, so the youth would benefit. The families would get good support of elders and would be able to keep their culture and traditions alive for a longer time. One would get a chance to see frequent changes in technology and lifestyle and enjoy a life full of comforts for more years.

To conclude, although the graying society has more demerits in terms of pressure on the governments, the ageing of the population should be seen as a transition not a crisis, with opportunities as well as challenges in society's response to the ageing question. The main challenge is to promote healthy and productive ageing and to adjust societal practices and structures to include older people as contributors to society.

**Plan followed**

Intro: Balanced intro as it is a discuss question

Para 1: problems for society

- more and more people who care for the elderly are needed

Para 2: disadvantages for the old people themselves

Para 3: merits of such situation

Conclusion: the ageing of the population should be seen with opportunities as well as challenges.

Some people claim that family members are more important than friends; do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Human development is a complex interplay of many factors. Some individuals are of the opinion that parents are more significant for children whereas others opine that friends have a more important role. It is necessary to look at both arguments before forming an opinion.

Parents have direct **interactions** with the children. They provide a sense of identification to the child. These **have** their greatest effect on **intellectual** development **and** character traits. They also play a very important role in the socializing process of the child. Right from the bed time stories to the behavioural habits parents play a very important role in making a child a responsible citizen. They know their child's temperament better than anyone else. They can provide critical input better than anyone else. That is why it is believed by some that parents have the strongest role in a child's development.

Friends, on the other hand, are important in order to help children grow emotionally and socially. Children find out who they are by comparing themselves to others. They learn about attitude, character and personality. Building good relationships boosts a child's self esteem and they find comfort in those friendships when things get tough such as losing a pet or facing family problems. Therefore, friendships are essential to assure children develop a healthy psyche. When kids are surrounded by friends or have one close friend, they have better self esteem, feel a sense of well being and experience fewer social problems.

In my opinion, we cannot generalize as to what has more significance. In the early years family generally has more impact but in adolescence friends may impact more. It appears that the power of the peer group becomes more important when the family relationships are not close or supportive. For example, if the parents work extra jobs and are largely unavailable, their children may turn to their peer group for emotional support.

To conclude, children are affected by many different factors such as parents, friends and environment. All these are inextricably linked in the development of children. There is individual variation and therefore it is difficult to generalize which factor plays the most significant role.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: It is necessary to look at both arguments before forming an opinion

Para 1: Role of parents

Para 2: Role of friends

Para 3: your opinion

- younger children – parents more important
- Older children – friends more important
- If family ties are weak – friends more important

Conclusion: difficult to generalise

Both are important and individual variations are there



Nowadays, fewer people tend to look after their old relatives and send them to some old age homes. What is the situation in your country? In your opinion, who should be responsible to look after the elderly?

Demographic trends suggest that we are heading towards a graying society and it is the bitter truth of today that that children are sending their elderly parents to live separately in old age homes. Fortunately, in my country, India, the old-age homes are still in their infancy. Ideally, the children should look after their elderly. However, I have strong arguments to suggest that the elderly should live separately in old-age homes.

The ideal situation would be that the elderly should be looked after by their children. Parents spend their whole life toiling hard to provide the best to their children and now it is the children's turn to pay back. It is their moral responsibility to look after their parents. However, it has been seen that most elderly are leading miserable lives with their children. They are leading isolated lives amidst their family members and that is why I firmly believe that they should live separately.

My first argument is that living separately will give them a feeling of independence. Moreover, by doing so, they will command more respect in the eyes of their children. It is irrefutable that relationships become strong and meaningful when people are not under the same roof. Hence, if aged people are away from their children physically, both will be closer to each other emotionally.

What is more, the mushroom growth of old age homes is ample evidence that they are a boon for the society. They give the opportunity to the elderly to be in the comfort of people of similar age and experience. They also remain healthy with timely day-to-day activities. In such homes, the elderly also get a chance to do some social service activities which in turn help the society.

Furthermore, the culture of the old age homes tends to refine some attitudes of the aged such as short temper and negative thinking. Old age homes are also a boon for those elderly who face social isolation in their own homes where their so-called loved ones neglect them badly and have no time for them.

To conclude, the elderly should live with people of their own age group, in old age homes, where they enjoy the retired period of their life nicely, comfortably and productively

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree. Old people should live separately

Para 1: Ideal situation

- Children should look after elderly – but most elderly not looked after well

Para 2: this will give them a feeling of independence. Moreover, by doing so, they will command more respect in the eyes of their children.

Para 3: Advantages of old age homes

- The elderly are in the comfort of people of similar age and experience.
- They also remain healthy with timely day-to-day activities
- also get a chance to do some social service activities which in turn help the society

Para 4: More advantages

- the culture of the old age homes tends to refine some attitudes of the aged such as short temper and negative thinking
- Old age homes are also a boon for those elderly who face social isolation in their own homes where their so-called loved ones neglect them badly and have no time for them.

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

There are more and more old people in many parts of the world. What are the causes of this and what are the solutions.

Demographic trends suggest that today we belong to a graying society. This essay shall delve into the reasons of this phenomenon and also suggest some ways to deal with this situation.

The main reason for the increased life expectancy of people is the development in health care. Years ago, people died young because of simple things such as an infection or a virus. Now we have antibiotics and other medicines to help cure infections. Many incurable cancers and diseases such as tuberculosis are now completely curable. Due to technological advancements, many diseases such as breast and uterine cancer can be diagnosed so early that the evil can be nipped in the bud. What is more, advances in surgical techniques have made miracles happen. Transplant surgeries have increased the life of many.

Another reason of people living longer is that there is better access to health care. Earlier if a person suffered a heart attack or a stroke, a lot of harm was done before he could reach the nearest super-specialty hospital. Now faster modes of transport and the mushroom growth of such hospitals provide timely treatment. To add to it, people can now get consultation from any doctor in any part of the world because digital x-rays, MRIs and CT scans are there which can be sent to any part of the world at the click of a mouse.

A final reason for this is that there is more personal awareness. The quality of nutrition has also improved. People eat more healthfully than they used to. It is now common knowledge that eating low fat food can prevent heart disease, and we know that eating fruits and vegetables can prevent cancers. Now people have begun to realize the importance of exercise. Walking, yoga and gym culture has become very popular not only among the youth but also by the octogenarians and centenarians of our society.

These demographic changes are the reality of today. There is no going back. A lot of planning is needed at the individual level and at the government level to meet the challenges of old age. Governments have to provide special privileges to the elderly so that the elderly don't face any problems and at the individual level people should plan their retired life nicely so that they lead a happy life. For whatever reason people are living longer, what is important is that living longer is one thing and living healthier and productive lives is another.

To sum up, I pen down saying that people are living longer because of many reasons and many steps can be taken to face the challenges of this demographic trend.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall delve into the reasons of this phenomenon and also suggest some ways to deal with this situation.

Para 1: first reason - the development in health care

Para 2: another reason – Increased access to health care

Para 3: another reason – better personal awareness

Para 4: steps to tackle it

- A lot of planning is needed at the individual level and at the government level to meet the challenges of old age.

Conclusion:

Some people say now there is less communication between the family members than in the past. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

I do not completely agree that nowadays there is lesser communication among the family members than in the past. What has actually happened is that most of the communication has changed from direct face-to-face communication to blind communication via the computer screen or the cell-phone.

To begin with, even today, the family is the center of many people's lives. As many people study or work in the same city and live in the same flat or house, family members have numerous opportunities to talk to each other. The whole family also gets together to have dinner at night, at the same time, exchange their days happenings. Last but not least, on weekends, the whole family goes for outings or shopping together and on these occasions gets opportunities to communicate with each other.

On the other hand, in this era of cut-throat competition, people spend more time on their study and work. Meanwhile, Compared to the past, people have to face fiercer competition and suffer greater pressure nowadays. Therefore, they have to devote more time and energy to their careers. For example, many jobs require people to work in other cities and many children have to leave their parents at an early age to study or work elsewhere. That is why to some extent communication has decreased among family members.

Today families communicate with each other as much as or even more than the past via the cell phone and internet. Earlier, when a member of the family went to another city or country for study or for a business trip, the landline phone or the traditional letter was the only means of communication. Today, families have minute-to-minute information about each other and many applications such as Skype have made video chat so easy and good that distances seem no barrier at all and communication has become even more frequent.

To sum up, it can be said that, even today families communicate with each other in many ways. To some extent the fast paced life has decreased interaction among family members but technology has brought in newer means to ease communication.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: I do not completely agree – communication has changed – some decrease is there

Para 1: How families communicate even today

Para 2: How communication has decreased

Para 3: How communication has changed

Conclusion:

Young people these days tend to be less polite and respectful than in the past. What are the causes and suggest some solutions.

It is irrefutable that the modern generation nowadays has become less considerate and civil than in the earlier times. This essay intends to explore the possible causes of this situation, and suggest some ways to alleviate the problem.

The most important reason is the disintegration of the traditional, joint family system. In today's nuclear families, there are no grandparents to teach moral values to children. Parents are busy working and do not spend quality time with children. Consequently, children become self-centered and uncaring for the world around them.

Secondly, we are part of a consumerist society. We desire to have the latest things, and to get those things we are becoming workaholics. We set goals for ourselves, and work hard to achieve them. As a result politeness and respect have taken a back seat. Finally, we have the influence of the western culture. There, it is considered quite normal to argue and question the elders.

The solutions are not simple. To begin with, it is necessary to instill moral values in children at a young age. So, joint family system should be encouraged. Secondly, community welfare programmes should be part of high school curriculum. We can also take the help of media to show programmes, which highlight the good points of earlier times and discourage consumerism. But, the final onus is on the people themselves. They should be willing to change.

To sum up, in the fast-paced world of today, people have changed and become selfish and self centered, but steps can be taken to re-imbibe some virtues of the olden times.

**Plan followed**

Intro: I intend to explore the possible causes of this situation and suggest some ways forward.

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: solutions

Conclusion:

Some sports are extremely dangerous but many people still like them very much. Why do people take part in dangerous sports? Give some suggestions on how to deal with these dangers.

In recent years we have seen a considerable rise in dangerous or extreme sports. This essay shall discuss some of the main reasons why people engage in such sports and suggest ways in which some risks involved in such sports can be reduced.

The main reason why people go for dangerous sports is that they get the thrill out of them. They like taking risks. They like to challenge their abilities and potentials. They feel a sense of satisfaction when they come face to face with fears while bungee jumping, rock climbing and so on. In addition, going through a dangerous experience gives them courage and confidence to face the hurdles of their daily life.

Another reason for pursuing such sports is that there is a lot of fame and money involved in them. They get attention by doing stunts on motorcycles and jumping from tall buildings. They make headlines in newspapers and TV News Channels. They feel great when their name comes in the Guinness Book of World Records. Once they get famous they get a lot of money also. For instance, many businesses hire them to endorse their products. They also get jobs on the basis of such skills.

Many steps can be taken to reduce the risks that are involved. Firstly, these sports should be done under strict supervision. All safety precautions should be taken. Such sports should be performed after sufficient training and under supervision of adults. Sport companies which cater to such sports should require a license for providing such training. Some people suggest banning some sports. However, I do not believe that banning is a good solution. We all know that forbidden fruits taste sweeter and people will do such sports in hiding which would increase the risks involved.

To conclude, people do such sports for fun, for money and for fame. However, such sports should be performed after sufficient training from licensed companies and under some supervision.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Address the question appropriately.

Para 1: Why people take part in dangerous sports

- They get the thrill out of them. They like taking risks. They like to challenge their abilities and potentials.

Para 2: Another reason

- There is a lot of fame and money involved in dangerous sports.
- Once they get famous they get a lot of money also. For instance, many businesses hire them to endorse their products. They also get jobs on the basis of such skills.

Para 3: Solutions

- These sports should be done under strict supervision. All safety precautions should be taken.

Conclusion: people do such sports for fun, for money and for fame. However, such sports should be performed after sufficient training from licensed companies and under some supervision.

Some people think competitive sport is important for a child's education. Others think it has negative effects on children. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

In recent years, due to stiff competition in almost every area some people opine that competitive sports have a beneficial impact on children's education. However, there are some who disagree with the above notion. Before presenting my view, I intend to explore both sides of the argument.

There are many advantages of competitive sports. The first and foremost advantage is that such sports prepare children for a society that thrives on competition. Competition is a normal part of human nature and a part of everyday life. Secondly, competitive sports provide challenges and help children deal with such challenges. Finally, these games teach discipline and help build character and confidence.

On the other hand opponents of competitive sports argue that these sports lead to stress which is detrimental to the mental health of children. If these games are played with a win-at-all-cost attitude then sometimes unethical means are adopted to win and this is definitely not what children should learn in schools. Competitive sports also have a toxic effect on the relation among children. Each child may regard others as a rival to his own success and it leads children to envy winners and laugh at losers.

In my opinion, competitive sports are good but over competitiveness should be discouraged. The win-at-all-cost mentality should not be there. In childhood, competition should be introduced gradually and children should build skills, participate fully and focus on playing rather than winning.

To conclude, competitive sports have more pros than cons. Students should play competitive sports because they make them adapt better to this competitive society. However, schools should take effective measures to avoid destructive competition.

### **Essay Plan**

**Intro:** Discuss intro

**Para:** Advantages of competitive sports

- prepare children for a society that thrives on competition
- help children deal with such challenges
- these games teach discipline and help build character and confidence

**Para 2:** Disadvantages

- these sports lead to stress which is detrimental to the mental health of children
- If these games are played with a win-at-all-cost attitude then sometimes unethical means are adopted
- also have a toxic effect on the relation

**Para 3:** In my opinion, competitive sports are good but over competitiveness should be discouraged

**Conclusion:**

Some people believe that Competitive sports like football is valuable for different group ages and culture while some others believe that it may cause some problems for culture and nationalities. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It is irrefutable that competitive sports such as football are watched by millions of people worldwide. There are divided opinions on whether these games are advantageous for people or cause difficulties for different cultures and nationalities. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the former view.

Sports provide people of all age groups and cultures with entertainment and something to get excited about and they are topics for conversation. They provide a common bond for complete strangers and a common team to cheer for. The Olympics are one of the best examples of how sporting events can bring people of different nations together. In ancient times, the Greeks and Romans would interrupt battles to participate in games. Even India and Pakistan forget their differences on the cricket ground and the players embrace each other after every match.

For young children, such sports provide motivation to participate in such events which provides them the necessary physical exercise. They learn the spirit of competition which is very much needed in today's era of cut-throat competition. However, they must be taught about healthy competition which teaches hard work and perseverance and does not employ unethical means.

On the other hand there are many examples of violence and conflicts which such games have brought about. Football hooliganism or football violence is well known to all. The 1985 European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus in Heysel Stadium led to the death of 39 supporters. Any wrong decision by the referee can lead to violence. A lot of emotion and passion are involved and all reason and logic fly out of the window. That is why some people hold the opinion that such games divide people.

To conclude, competitive games generally bring people together. There are a few incidences when over-patriotism prevailed and people got divided but such incidents can be counted on the fingertips.

Plan followed:

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages for people of all ages and culture

Para 2: Advantages for children

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

More people have unhealthy diet and do not do enough exercises. What are the reasons for this? How can we encourage people to have a healthier lifestyle?

Obesity and its related problems are a growing cause of concern. The main reason is the sedentary lifestyle and fast food culture. This essay shall delve into the reasons why people choose to eat unhealthy diet and not do exercise. Some measures to motivate people to adopt a healthy lifestyle shall also be discussed.

The fast paced life of today is the most common cause of this habit. People have become workaholics in their rat race after material possessions and as a result don't have the time to cook healthy food and even do any exercise. Whole foods require time to prepare and processed or ready-to-eat foods are consumed which are definitely less healthy.

Another reason is the taste factor. Given the choices of steamed broccoli versus macaroni and cheese, or baby carrots versus potato chips, or an apple versus a candy bar, most people would choose the latter simply because it tastes better. The mushroom growth of fast food outlets have also made them very affordable and very easily available. Finally, perhaps the most significant reason is lack of awareness that obesity caused by such a lifestyle is not just one disease; it has many other deadly diseases like diabetes and hypertension associated with it.

People can be encouraged to adopt a healthier lifestyle in many ways. The governments can aware people about the ill effects of obesity through the media. Sports stadiums and well equipped gyms should be made available in the propinquity of residential areas so that people don't have to go far to access them. Benefits of healthy eating habits and daily exercise should be told to people through the media. Last but not least, the family meal should be encouraged. People tend to eat better when they are sitting down at a table. There is better control of the serving size. There is more focus on interaction and discussion and not only on the food.

Summing up, people eat unhealthy and don't exercise enough but if they are made aware about the ill effects of such a lifestyle and motivated to make some lifestyle modifications then surely it would make a big difference.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: more causes

Para 3: How people can be encouraged for healthy life style

Conclusion:



Schools do not teach young people enough knowledge to look after their health. Do you agree with this opinion?

“Health is Wealth” is a well known saying. The home, the school and the community should share the task of helping each child to be healthy. Unfortunately, health education is not given any place in most schools. Wherever it has been started, it has brought enormous benefits. This essay shall delve into the advantages that can be brought about by school health programmes.

To begin with, it has been seen that schools that provide health services and education not only benefit school-aged children, but also the entire community. This is because school children can act as messengers for other out-of-school children and members of their communities to communicate better practices in hygiene and overall health. It has also been demonstrated that de-worming programs in schools benefit out-of-school children by reducing disease transmission in the community as a whole.

Furthermore, healthier children are more likely to attend school, and absenteeism is reduced. Education and good health offer children the power of choice and opportunity, as well as optimism for a better life. In this way, health education in childhood can help establish lifelong positive behaviors. What is more, health education can help protect individuals, particularly young women, from HIV infection and pregnancy. It is widely recognized that school health and nutrition programs are essential to prevent further HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Finally, we all know that today childhood obesity is a big problem because of fast food trend. Obesity is not just one problem; it can lead to many other problems such as hypertension and diabetes at a young age. If health education is incorporated in the school curricula, this problem can be tackled to a large extent.

To conclude, it can be said that, health education should be a mandatory part of all school curricula. It would bring many benefits in times to come, not only for the children but for the entire communities.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall delve into the advantages that can be brought about by school health programmes.

Para 1: advantages

- schools that provide health services and education not only benefit school-aged children, but also the entire community

Para 2: more advantage

- absenteeism is reduced
- health education in childhood can help establish lifelong positive behaviors
- health education can help protect individuals, particularly young women, from HIV infection and pregnancy

Para 3: more advantage

- combats obesity

Conclusion:

Discuss your opinion about how modernism can affect our health. What can the government do to overcome such circumstances?

Modern life can be very taxing. Today, we live faster, work more and have less free time than ever before. In addition, our conveniences come at the expense of the purity of the environment. In this essay I intend to delve into the negative effects of modernism on our health and the steps that can be taken to overcome them.

There is an age old saying, "We are what we eat". This holds good even today. Nowadays, good food is hard to find. Many people are eating the quickest and the cheapest foods they can find, which, unfortunately, are the least nutritious. They lead to obesity which can predispose to many diseases such as hypertension and obesity.

The second major effect of modernism is lack of exercise. Machines and the automobiles have made our lifestyle very sedentary. In addition to it, the fast paced lifestyle and the IT revolution have increased our expectations from work. Not only that, the consumerist society also makes us work more. This makes us workaholics and as a result we suffer from stress which has led many to a nervous breakdown.

Many steps can be taken to combat the negative effects of modernism. The best way to do this is to start educating people on how to live a healthier life. This has to be done on a large scale. The government can take the help of the media for this purpose. There should be a ban on the ads of fast foods. People have to be told the difference between a healthy meal and a fattening one. Secondly, exercise should be incorporated in our daily routine. For short distances, people should be encouraged to walk. This would kill two birds with one stone as people would be healthy and also pollution from vehicles would reduce. This pollution also causes health problems. Finally, government should fix working hours. This would give people more time to relax and exercise.

To conclude, modernism can affect our physical and mental health but government can take many steps to lessen these effects.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: In this essay I intend to delve into the negative effects of modernism on our health and the steps that can be taken to overcome them

Para 1: First reason

- Many people are eating the quickest and the cheapest foods they can find, which, unfortunately, are the least nutritious

Para 2: More reasons

- The second major effect of modernism is lack of exercise. Machines and the automobiles have made our lifestyle very sedentary.
- We have become workaholics
- Consumerist society

Para 3: Solutions

- educating people on how to live a healthier life
- exercise should be incorporated in our daily routine

Conclusion:

Fast food is becoming one part of people's daily life everywhere, and this has had negative effects on our lifestyles and diet. Do you agree with this statement?

In this era of technology and globalization, all spheres of life have changed dramatically and food is also no exception. I agree that international fast foods and restaurants have become part of life and this has had a detrimental effect on our lifestyles and diet. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

There are a lot of detrimental effects of fast foods. Firstly, because of the easy availability and affordability of fast foods, people do not spare time to prepare and eat traditional home cooked food. Secondly, there is the influence of occidental culture over the oriental one. People are forgetting their roots. For example, in earlier times all family members used to sit together and eat, and over the dining table they shared their happenings of the day. These fast foods are eaten alone

mostly because they don't appeal to the palate of the older members. As a result, family bonds and relationships are getting vague. Moreover, the art of home cooking is suffering a lot.

Furthermore, this has a harmful effect on people's health. Undoubtedly, people are affected by health hazards like obesity and other diseases. Obesity is the root cause of many other diseases. Fast foods are rich in fats and salts which are not good for health. An obese person is more likely to suffer from diseases like hypertension and diabetes.

There are tangible consequences on society too. As people get inclined towards fast food and restaurants, local culture dies out. It is because traditional food is inextricably linked with culture. Undoubtedly, the identity of the society and nation will disappear. It will be monopolized by western societies. Also, if people are not healthy, the productivity of the nation will come to a standstill. Last but not least, fast foods promote use-and-throw culture which adds to the problem of garbage dumps, contamination, pollution and eventually many diseases.

To conclude, international fast foods have carved their niche and traditional food has taken the backseat. Certainly, this has adverse effects on our lifestyles.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Effects

- because of the easy availability and affordability of fast foods, people do not spare time to prepare and eat traditional home cooked food
- there is the influence of occidental culture over the oriental one. People are forgetting their roots

Para 2: effect on people's health – obesity

Para 3: effects on society

- As people get inclined towards fast food and restaurants, local culture dies out. It is because traditional food is inextricably linked with culture
- if people are not healthy, the productivity of the nation will come to a standstill.
- fast foods promote use-and-throw culture which adds to the problem of garbage dumps, contamination, pollution and eventually many diseases

Conclusion:

Doctors say that people do not enough physical exercise. What are reasons? Suggest some solutions.

Obesity and its related problems are a growing cause of concern. The main reason is the sedentary lifestyle. This essay shall delve into the reasons why people choose not to exercise. Some measures to motivate people to adopt a healthy lifestyle shall also be discussed.

The fast paced life of today is the most common cause of this habit. People have become workaholics in their rat race after material possessions and as a result don't have the time to do any exercise. It requires some determination to extract time for exercise from the hectic lifestyle of today. Another reason is the lack of awareness of the benefits of exercise. Most people are not aware about the benefits of regular exercise. After all, our body is a machine and regular exercise acts as a lubricant for the various parts. It has been proven by research that exercise can delay the onset of osteoarthritis which is a disease of old age. Exercise can also ward off stress. Those who exercise regularly, seldom suffer from depression.

Finally, some people start exercise and want overnight benefits. They want miracles to happen and when they don't see any improvement in a few days, they stop doing exercise. If they are made aware that results would surely be visible if they keep exercising, most of them would do exercise. Furthermore, people want to adopt short cuts to lose weight such as dieting. What they don't realize is that if they lose weight by eating less then it decreases their body's metabolic rate and then they start putting on weight even by eating the barest minimum.

People can be encouraged to adopt a healthier lifestyle in many ways. The governments can aware people about the ill effects of obesity through the media. Sports stadiums and well equipped gyms should be made available in the propinquity of residential areas so that people don't have to go far to access them. Benefits of daily exercise should be told to people through the media. Exercising not only gives you more time to live, it makes the time you live more enjoyable. You'll feel better, think straighter, sleep more soundly, and have more capacity and endurance for everything you wish to do.

To conclude, people don't exercise because of busy schedules and lack of awareness, but if they are made aware about the ill effects of such a lifestyle and motivated to make some lifestyle modifications then surely it would make a big difference.

### **Plan followed**

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons

- fast paced life of today - People have become workaholics in their rat race after material possessions
- lack of awareness

Para 2: more causes

- want overnight results
- Adopt short cuts to lose weight

Para 3: How people can be encouraged for healthy life style

- governments can aware people about the ill effects of obesity
- Sports stadiums and well equipped gyms should be made available in the propinquity of residential areas
- Media should be used to aware people

Conclusion:

Many people think the professional sportsmen/sportswomen's behaviors on or off the field are not important as long as they are good players. To what extent do you agree or disagree with it?

I disagree that the conduct of professional sportspersons on the field and off the field is not significant. I believe our sportsmen are role models for the masses and therefore their behaviour, both on and off the field, should be very good. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, people especially the youth worship their favourite sportsman as their idol. They follow these sportsmen as their role models. The good behaviour of sportsmen both on and off of their playing field can have a positive effect on their spectators. Qualities such as teamwork, motivation, and dedication can all be easily spotted on the field. Sportsmen can also help promote eating healthy and staying in good physical condition. There are also many qualities off of the playing field that can be viewed as positive influences for children. Some professional sportsmen are very active in charities and foundations for sick and less fortunate children and others visit students in schools. For example, our famous cricketers, Sachin Tendulkar and M.S.Dhoni have started charities in their own names to help raise money for children overcoming cancer or other diseases.

On the other hand, if their behaviour on and off the field is not good, they can set negative examples. Some sportsmen can get carried away during a game and become very rude and disrespectful towards coaches, other players, and even fans. There are also problems off of the field such as drugs and gambling that tends to get a lot of sportsmen into trouble. Just as the good examples can be mimicked by children, the bad examples can and unfortunately will be mimicked too.

Furthermore, these sportspersons are ambassadors of their respective countries and people of any particular country are judged by the behaviour of their sportspersons. When they win matches, they raise their nation in the eyes of the world. When they cheat to win, they lower the name of their nation. Finally, their bad behaviour affects their game. For instance, when Harbhajan Singh, a famous cricketer slapped another player Shrisanth on the field, he was fined heavily and also barred from playing for some time.

To conclude, sportsmen can set an example wherever they are, whether they are on the playing field in front of thousands of people or off the playing field doing their own thing. They can be both a positive and encouraging role model or they can be viewed as someone who is not a good example for children today. So, their behaviour on and off the field is very significant.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Disagree. Their behaviour both on and off the field is very important

Para 1: They are role models. Their good behaviour has positive impact. Give examples of on the field and off the field behaviour

Para 2: Their bad behaviour has negative impact

Para 3: They are ambassadors of their respective nations.

Their own game is affected by their behaviour.

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

Most of people hope that they can hold sporting competitions in their own countries, while others believe that it may cause problems. Discuss both sides and give your ideas.

People are divided on the issue of hosting international sporting events. Some individuals opine that it is advantageous to host such events whereas others believe that this could be detrimental for the host country. This essay shall look into both arguments before forming an opinion.

There are many advantages that can ensue from hosting such events. To begin with, such events would mean a lot of international tourists which in turn would mean a lot of tourist dollars. For example, during the Olympics many athletes, spectators, officials, sponsors and broadcasters come to the host country and spend money on hotels and restaurants. What is more, the country also earns by selling tickets and selling souvenirs. Additionally, many people get employment because of the jobs related to hosting such events. For instance, there are many new jobs in construction projects of stadia and hotels and also in advertising related to such events. All this improves the overall economy of the people and the country.

Furthermore, the host country gets recognition in the whole world because of media exposure. It is also an opportunity for the host country and its people to know about the culture of other countries. This broadens the outlook of people and helps to make them true citizens of the global village of today. Last but not least, the infrastructure of the host country develops at an accelerated pace. For example, when New Delhi hosted the Commonwealth Games, many flyovers and stadia were built which changed the overall look of Delhi and now all these new facilities are being enjoyed by the local people of Delhi.

On the other hand it is also easy to see why some people are opposed to hosting such events. The main reason is that the development of that part of the country is at the expense of other parts. This is because the government of the host country usually allocates resources from other parts of the country to that part. Another reason why people are against such events is because of the Olympic drain associated with such events. In other words, the tourism in the neighbouring area suffers as all visitors are attracted towards the host city. Finally, crime is another factor why people don't like such events. When many people get together at the same place then there are chances of petty crime and the host city needs to hire more police officers.

Looking at both arguments, it is clear that there are both – advantages as well as disadvantages of hosting such events but on the whole the pros far outweigh the cons.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall look into both arguments before forming an opinion.

Para 1: - advantages

- tourism – economy – jobs for thousands of people

Para 2: advantage

- name and fame
- infrastructure
- culture exchange

Para 3: disadvantages

- development of that part of the country is at the expense of others
- Olympic drain
- crime

Conclusion: pros outweigh cons

People try new dangerous sports such as sky-diving or rock climbing. Should such sports be banned?

In recent years we have seen a considerable rise in dangerous or extreme sports. Although I do not support an outright ban on such sports, I do feel that the government should regulate such sports so that they are played under supervision which will minimize the risks.

It is irrefutable that dangerous or extreme sports can cause injury or even death to the individuals. However, banning such sports is not the answer. Instead, the government should ensure that the companies or centres which provide the facilities for such sports should meet the required, legal safety standards. Another argument against banning is that then people would play them in hiding and then they would be even more risky. After all we all know that forbidden fruits taste sweeter.

Furthermore, if government bans such sports, it could be viewed as an infringement of the rights. Those who choose to participate in these sports know the consequences. They know very well what is good or bad for them. They argue that if such sports are banned, then all those other things that are harmful for individuals should be banned like smoking, drinking and eating fast foods.

What is more, those sportsmen who excel in such sports bring name and fame to their country. They break records set by others and when they do so, the name of their country shines in the whole world.

To put it in a nutshell, it can be said that, such sports should be performed after sufficient training and under supervision of experts. Dangerous sport companies should require a license for providing such training. To lay a ban on such sports is not the answer.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: I do not support an outright ban on such sports, I do feel that the government should regulate such sports so that they are played under supervision which will minimize the risks.

Para 1: Points against banning

Para 2: Points against banning

Para 3: Points against banning

Conclusion: Reiterate your opinion

Now the traditions and customs of the food we eat and the way we eat it are changing, what is the way they change, and what do you think of the change.

In this era of technology and globalization, all spheres of life have changed dramatically and food is also no exception. This essay intends to discuss the ways in which the traditions and customs relating to food are changing. I believe this change is largely negative.

There are a lot of changes in the foods we eat today and also in the ways we prepare these foods today. Firstly in this torrid pace of life, people are working till their death. They have no time to prepare and enjoy traditional home cooked food. Ultimately, they switch to an easy option of restaurants. McDonalds have become a ubiquitous term in every home. Secondly, there is the influence of occidental culture over the oriental one. People are forgetting their roots. For example, in earlier times all family members used to sit together and eat, and over the dining table they shared their happenings of the day. These fast foods are eaten alone mostly because they don't appeal to the palate of the older members. As a result, family bonds and relationships are getting vague. Moreover, the art of home cooking is suffering a lot.

Admittedly, this trend has harmful effects on individuals. Undoubtedly, people are affected by health hazards like obesity and other diseases. Obesity is the root cause of many other diseases. Fast foods are rich in fats and salts which are not good for health. An obese person is more likely to suffer from diseases like hypertension and diabetes.

There are tangible consequences on society too. Broadly speaking, as people get inclined towards fast food and restaurants, local culture dies out. It is because traditional food is inextricably linked with culture. Undoubtedly, the identity of the society and nation will disappear. It will be monopolized by western societies. Also, if people are not healthy, the productivity of the nation will come to a standstill. Last but not least, fast foods promote use-and-throw culture which adds to the problem of garbage dumps, contamination, pollution and eventually many diseases.

To summarise, international fast foods have carved their niche and traditional food has taken the backseat. Certainly, this has adverse effects on individuals, families and societies.

#### **Plan followed:**

Intro:

Para 1: Ways of change

Para 2: Effects on individuals

Para 3: Effects on societies

Conclusion:



Do you agree or disagree that improvements in technology reduce the role of Olympic Games.

Olympic Games are the world's most important international athletic competition. They bring together thousands of the finest athletes to compete against one another in a variety of individual and team sports. Although technology is having an impact on the Olympics in a profound way, I disagree that it is reducing the role of Olympic Games. I believe that technology allows us to more fully appreciate everything about the competition and the athletes who commit their lives to fulfill their dreams.

To begin with, winning an Olympic event is the highest honour people can achieve even in the modern times. Unknown athletes get the chance to attain national, and in particular cases, international fame. Secondly, Olympic Games are the best medium of culture exchange even today. Different people of different countries, religions, cultures etc. get together at Olympics and the participants get a chance to know about other cultures. The Games also constitute a major opportunity for the host city and country to showcase themselves to the world.

Although the technological realities of the modern times have brought many changes in the Olympic Games of today, they have not reduced the importance of the Olympic Games. Technology plays a part in every aspect of these games, from the first torch relay hand-off to the closing ceremonies. Athletes and trainers use technology in preparing for the games to optimize their training. Sports equipment manufacturers use design technology to build improved apparatus, gear and more that will enable their clients to deliver a high level performance. Broadcasters use technology to better inform viewers of all aspects of the events. As a consequence, more and more people are exposed to these games.

People who opine that technology has reduced the role of Olympic Games, say so because the ugly claws of commercialism have crept into this field also. As a result, the Olympics has shifted away from pure amateurism to professionalism. The win-at-all-cost attitude has come up and many use unethical means to win. They also say that only the rich can afford technology to boost their performance and this creates a gap between the rich and poor. I still believe that without inherent ability no amount of technology can make anybody a winner or loser.

To sum up, technology has brought colossal changes in The Olympic Games of today but in no way have they decreased the role of Olympic Games.

**Plan followed:**

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Role of Olympics

Para 2: How technology has increased effect of Olympics

Para 3: Why people say that technology has decreased the role of Olympics

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

Playing team sports can teach students more than just games themselves. What do young people learn from playing team games? How are they useful in their later life?

I agree with the given statement that team sports teach more skills for life than just teaching about the game. This essay intends to discuss what students learn from these team sports. How such skills of life can help in adult life will also be discussed.

Some important skills taught by team sports are communication skills, co-operation and conflict management skills. All these are only learnt through team sports. When we step into daily life, we realise that communication skills are the most needed skills. We also have to co-operate with our family members, colleagues, friends and neighbours in daily life.

When we do team activities, we learn co-operation also. Conflict management skills are also learnt when we do team sports. You have differences of opinion and you learn to manage tough situations very diplomatically. All these are very necessary skills of life.

Furthermore, we also learn leadership skills, decision making and critical thinking skills while doing team sports. We learn how to make our voice heard and we also learn how to accept the correct suggestions of others. Finally, we learn sportsman-spirit which is a very good trait. We learn to accept victory with modesty and defeat with grace. This is an important life skill.

Summing up, team sports teach us about the game but they also teach important skills of life which are extremely helpful in life later on.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: agree

Para 1: Communication skills, are only learnt through team sports.

Para 2: co-operation and conflict management skills

Para 3: Leadership skills, decision making and critical thinking skills while doing team sports

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

In many countries around the world, shopping has turned into a form of entertainment rather than a way of getting what people need. Discuss the reasons for this trend. Is it a positive or negative development?

Or

In many places shopping is becoming a free-time activity, replacing the traditional hobbies of the past. Discuss the reasons for this development. Is this development positive or negative?

Shopping is generally thought of in terms of fulfilling needs. Shopping is seen first as a function and secondarily as something that serves emotional and social needs. As incomes have grown, choices have exploded and free time has increased, shopping has become entertainment as much as anything else. This can be seen as both – a positive as well as a negative development. In the following paragraphs I intend to explore the pros and cons of shopping as an entertainment.

On the positive side, shopping satisfies our needs. Everyone needs the basics of life such as items of food, clothing and shelter. Apart from that, needs vary from person to person. The things which were considered the luxuries of yesteryears have become the necessities of today. For example, the mobile phone has become a must-have for even the lower income group of people. Many businesses and jobs thrive on the connectivity provided by the mobile phone and the internet.

Furthermore, shopping has given rise to the consumerist society of today. This has given employment to many. For instance, people are working in the manufacturing industries and in the retail sector also. Mega stores and malls are also having a mushroom growth. What is more, psychologists claim that the best way to cope with stress or any kind of strong and negative emotion is to hit the shops and do plenty of shopping. It is called retail therapy and, according to many, it is guaranteed to boost spirits.

On the negative side, excessive shopping makes us pile up things in the home which we don't even need. It also leads to a throw-away society which is detrimental to the environment. To do shopping, people need a lot of money and if this money does not come by fair means people resort to unethical means of getting it which leads to violence and crime in the society.

To conclude, shopping is good as long as it is done for need, but when it is done for greed then it becomes a bane. So we should do shopping only according to our requirement and then it will be a pleasurable experience also.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: This can be seen as both – a positive as well as a negative development.

Para 1: On the positive side, shopping satisfies our needs. The things which were considered the luxuries of yesteryears have become the necessities of today.

Para 2: Furthermore, shopping has given rise to the consumerist society of today. This has given employment to many.

Psychologists claim that the best way to cope with stress or any kind of strong and negative emotion is to hit the shops and do plenty of shopping.

Para 3: On the negative side, excessive shopping makes us pile up things in the home which we don't even need. It also leads to a throw-away society

Conclusion: To put it in a nutshell, I pen down saying that, shopping is good as long as it is done for need, but when it is done for greed then it becomes a bane.

Nowadays, large shops have replaced privately-owned shops. Why is it? Do you think it is a positive or negative development? Or

Nowadays, local shops have been replaced by large supermarkets. Do you think its advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Commercialization has grown rapidly in the modern era. Consequently, there is a mushroom growth of big shopping malls. As every garden has weeds, this phenomenon also has its pros and cons. On the whole, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

There are many advantages of big stores. To begin with, they save our time. We do not have to waste time going from one small shop to the other. Secondly, these stores offer a huge variety of goods. For example, in some stores you can buy anything ranging from a sewing needle to a car.

Furthermore, such stores purchase items in bulk and so they can afford to sell the products at a lower price than the other small retailers and therefore the customers are benefited. To add to it, they sell mostly the branded products and so the quality is assured. Another advantage is that most of such stores accept credit cards and so you don't have to carry heavy chunks of cash.

On the downside, such malls promote consumerism. They pull the customers through attractive displays and schemes and as a result customers end up buying more than they need. Moreover, such shops are opened with huge investments. So they can withstand adverse market conditions for a long time. Because of this the small retailers and vendors are finding it difficult to cope with them.

To conclude, big shopping malls are definitely an asset to the customer and society despite their drawbacks.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: This can be seen as both – a positive as well as a negative development. On the whole, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Para 1: On the positive side,

- they save our time.
- these stores offer a huge variety of goods.

Para 2: Furthermore,

- Such stores purchase items in bulk and so they can afford to sell the products at a lower price.
- They sell mostly the branded products and so the quality is assured
- Such stores accept credit cards and so you don't have to carry heavy chunks of cash.

Para 3: On the negative side,

- Such malls promote consumerism.
- Small retailers and vendors are finding it difficult to cope with them.

Conclusion: Shopping malls are definitely an asset to the customer and society despite their drawbacks.

**Some shops are open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Do you think it is a good thing for the customers, shop staff and company as a whole?**

Today, we belong to a 24/7 society. All 24 hours are ours, and we should take advantage of the given time and do our best. This could be very beneficial and because it adds to productivity. Round-the-clock shops are part of this society. Definitely, it is advantageous for the customers, staff and the company as a whole.

Customers are benefited in numerous ways. To begin with, today's, work routine has changed. Many jobs require late-night or early-morning shifts. They may range from truck and taxi drivers to police and firefighters, to hospital and manufacturing employees. People are staying up later and getting up earlier and they need a convenient place to shop. Moreover, 24-hour stores also benefit those with more urgent needs, such as patients released from hospitals during the night in need of pain medication, and parents whose sick child needs a prescription. The growing needs of an aging population can also not be overlooked. What is more, this allows parents to shop for family needs almost any time of the day or night without interrupting crucial time with children. They can do the shopping after children go to bed. Finally, such stores are a boon for those who do not like to shop during the day because it is too busy and overcrowded.

The 24 hour supermarkets have benefited job seekers too. Plenty of jobs have been created and there are more choices for people to apply for evening work as vacancies are there for late evenings and early mornings. Full time positions are now available for people who would like to work within the evenings or for those who can only work in the evenings. Night shifts are the only way to go for those who have day commitments such as students. Moreover, the rate of pay for evening work can sometimes be more than that during the days. Additionally, there are staff discounts on the goods sold within such shops as well as other company benefits which is why working within such supermarkets is very popular among many job seekers.

The companies themselves will also gain from opening the stores for 24 hours because it will enable them to get more business as shoppers are welcome to shop and purchase whenever they want and whatever they want. They will also be able to take on staff specifically for stacking and filling shelves because during the day there will be too many customers around to be able to fill the shelves properly. 24 hour supermarkets also enable deliveries for any time of day and night without the need of worrying about late deliveries due to the store having to close.

In conclusion, it can be said that 24-hour-shops are a boon for the customers, staff and the companies as a whole.

**Plan followed**

Intro: It is a positive development for all

Para 1: Advantages for customers

- People with 24/7 working hours need 24/7 shops
- It also benefits those with more urgent needs, such as patients released from hospitals during the night in need of pain medication, and parents whose sick child needs a prescription. There are the growing needs of an aging population also.
- Parents have more time with children
- Also good for those who do not want to shop during rush hours.

Para 2: Advantages for staff - More jobs

- Night shifts for those with day commitments such as students
- Staff discounts on the goods within the stores

Para 3: Advantages to companies

- They get more business
- Can employ night staff for stacking and filling shelves
- Can enable deliveries any time of the day or night

Conclusion: Repeat views of intro.

Many people are doing their shopping on the internet nowadays. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of shopping online.

Today with the internet so readily accessible to us, more and more people are turning to online shopping for all their needs. Clothes, shoes, products, even groceries can now **be** purchased via the internet. This essay shall look into the pros and cons of online shopping.

There are several advantages to shopping online. The first is the ability to shop at a time that is convenient to you, not just when the shops are open. The second advantage of shopping online is that goods are often cheaper as the seller does not have the costs of running a shop and having to pay wages to salespeople, insurance and all of the other running costs of a real world business. Online shopping can also be a lot more comfortable than real world shopping as you do not have to deal with the weather.

A huge advantage of shopping online is that you have the opportunity to compare as many products and prices as you want without having to spend the time and money to travel between several different shops. You will also be able to read reviews that have been written by other people who have purchased the item you are considering; you will be able to find out about the item from a genuine user not just the salesperson. Finally you will be able to find and buy products all over the world not just in your local area – this makes purchasing of hard-to-find items a lot easier.

The main disadvantage of shopping online is that you have to pay shipping costs and have to wait for the items you purchased to be shipped and delivered. This could take several weeks if you have purchased a product from overseas, and the costs of shipping may outweigh any savings you made on the purchase price. You will not be able to purchase an item you need to use immediately online.

Another disadvantage is that you have to buy the item relying purely on a photograph and description, you cannot feel or see the item you want to buy. It can sometimes be quite hard to judge the size or quality of some items purely from a photograph. The final disadvantage of shopping online is that it is much harder and takes longer to return faulty goods; you will have to repack it and pay to ship it back to the seller. It can literally take weeks to exchange a faulty product purchased online.

In summary, the main advantages of shopping online are convenience and cost savings, while the main disadvantage is that the item is not immediately available, and you cannot inspect it personally before you make your purchase.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: advantages

- ability to shop at a time that is convenient to you, not just when the shops are open
- goods are often cheaper as the seller does not have the costs of running a shop
- more comfortable

Para 2: more advantages

- the opportunity to compare as many products and prices as you want without having to spend the time and money to travel – also read reviews
- you will be able to find and buy products all over the world not just in your local area

Para 3: disadvantages

- you have to pay shipping costs and
- have to wait for the items you purchased to be shipped and delivered.

Para 4: more disadvantages

- you cannot feel or see the item you want to buy.
- it is much harder and takes longer to return faulty goods

Conclusion:

Road transport is taking over rail services. Discuss the positive and negative effects of this development. Is this situation true for your country?

Transport refers to the activity that facilitates movements of goods and individuals from one place to another. So, it removes the distance barrier. Roadways and railways are the two means of land transport. It is true that in many countries road transport is becoming more popular. It is both a negative as well as a positive development which I shall discuss in this essay.

There are many advantages of road transport over rail transport. To begin with, it is a relatively cheaper mode of transport than rail transport. Secondly, perishable goods can be transported at a faster speed by road carriers over a short distance. Moreover, it provides door-to-door service. So, loading and unloading is possible at any destination. Finally, it is the only mode of transport in hilly areas which are not connected by other modes of transport.

On the downside, road transport has its limitations which are indirectly the plus points of rail transport. Firstly, due to limited carrying capacity, road transport is not economical for long distances. Secondly, road transport is affected by adverse weather conditions like floods, rains, landslides etc. On the other hand rail transport is hardly affected by such situations. Finally, road transport leads to too much congestion on roads which in turn may cause accidents and increase pollution.

In India, over the years, more and more inland freight traffic has been shifting from rail to road. In 1951, 88% of the country's freight was moving on rail and 10% on road. But today, about 60% of the freight moves on road and 38% on rail.

To conclude, road transport definitely has an edge over rail transport. That is why it is becoming more popular. This situation has both pros and cons which I have explained in the above paragraphs.

### **Plan followed in the essay**

Intro: a balanced approach as it is a discuss essay.

Para 1: Advantages of road over rail

- cheaper
- perishable goods can be transported at a faster speed by road carriers over a short distance
- door-to-door service
- the only mode of transport in hilly areas

Para 2: Disadvantages of road transport / advantages of rail transport

- due to limited carrying capacity, road transport is not economical for long distances.
- road transport is affected by adverse weather conditions
- road transport leads to too much congestion on roads which in turn may cause accidents and increase pollution.

Para 3: Situation in India – road transport is gaining popularity

Conclusion: Road transport has both advantages and disadvantages.

More and more people use private cars instead of taking public transport. What are the reasons for this trend? How can the government encourage people to take public transport?

Someone has rightly said that – “The car has become an article of dress without which we feel uncertain, unclad, and incomplete”. It is irrefutable that many individuals are using their own instead of going by buses and trains. In this essay, I shall discuss the reasons for this phenomenon and also suggest ways by which the government can motivate people to use public transport.

There are many reasons for the increasing popularity of cars. The first and foremost reason is that the car is the most convenient mode of transport. It takes you from destination to destination and you do not have to waste time to go to the bus stand or railway station to wait for public transport which runs at specific times. Secondly, families can go out together and enjoy their outings more. What is more, you can halt anywhere you need for some refreshments. The car is also a blessing in times of emergencies when a sick family member has to be shifted to the hospital. Finally, because of the increased competition among the automobile companies, the cars have become affordable by the vast majority of people. For example, the basic model of Maruti 800 and the Nano by Tata Company are called the poor man's cars.

This increased number of cars on the roads is causing many problems such as traffic congestion and pollution. To reduce these problems, the government can encourage people to use public transport. This can be done in many ways. Firstly, the comfort of the public transport could be made better. Secondly, the fares could be reduced and the frequency of public transport should be increased. Definitely, if all these improvements are made in buses and trains, then people would prefer them over cars in many situations.

Another way to stimulate public transport use is to make private car use more expensive and inconvenient. The introduction of tolls along urban motorways has been successfully employed in many cities. Other such measures such as high parking rates in urban areas also could help a lot. Faced with high costs or no place to park, people would perhaps be more willing to abandon their cars in favour of buses or trains.

To conclude, it could be said that there is no doubt that the private vehicle is gaining a lot of popularity but if the government takes some steps to encourage public transport then definitely the use of cars could reduce a lot.

**Plan followed:**

Intro: write the intro suitably to answer the question

Para 1: Why people are using cars more

- It takes you from destination to destination and you do not have to waste time
- Secondly, families can go out together and enjoy their outings more
- you can halt anywhere you need for some refreshments
- The car is also a blessing in times of emergencies
- Easy affordability nowadays

Para 2: How government can encourage people to use public transport

- Decrease fare
- Increase comfort
- Increase frequency

Para 3 More measures

- make private car use more expensive
- The introduction of tolls along urban motorways
- high parking rates in urban areas

Conclusion:



Now, more and more people want to buy cars. However, cars cause many problems. What are these problems? How can we encourage people to take public transportation?

Someone has rightly said that – “The car has become an article of dress without which we feel uncertain, unclad, and incomplete”. It is irrefutable that many individuals prefer to own their own car rather than use buses and trains. In this essay, I shall discuss the disadvantages of cars and also suggest ways by which the people can be motivated to use public transport.

There are many disadvantages of the car. The increase in pollution, traffic jams and accidents are the natural sequel to the burgeoning population of cars. Moreover, our overdependence on cars can lead to decrease in practices such as walking and cycling and this has led to a number of diseases such as obesity.

To reduce these problems, the government can encourage people to use public transport. This can be done in many ways. Firstly, the comfort of the public transport could be made better. Secondly, the fares could be reduced and the frequency of public transport should be increased. Definitely, if all these improvements are made in buses and trains, then people would prefer them over cars in many situations.

Another way to stimulate public transport use is to make private car use more expensive and inconvenient. The introduction of tolls along urban motorways has been successfully employed in many cities. Other such measures such as high parking rates in urban areas also could help a lot. Faced with high costs or no place to park, people would perhaps be more willing to abandon their cars in favour of buses or trains.

To conclude, it could be said that there is no doubt that the private vehicle is gaining a lot of popularity but this is leading to a lot of problems. If the government takes some steps to encourage public transport then definitely the problems caused by the increased use of cars could be minimized.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: write the intro suitably to answer the question

Para 1: Disadvantages

- Pollution
- Traffic jams
- Accidents
- Decrease in healthy practices

Para 2: How government can encourage people to use public transport

- Decrease fare
- Increase comfort
- Increase frequency

Para 3 More measures

- make private car use more expensive
- The introduction of tolls along urban motorways
- high parking rates in urban areas

Conclusion:

Some people say the cars should be banned from the centers of cities. Do you agree or disagree?

Someone has rightly said that – “The car has become an article of dress without which we feel uncertain, unclad, and incomplete”. The increased use of cars has created many problems. Therefore, I strongly believe that cars should not be allowed in city centres. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The most important reason is pollution from car exhausts, which damages people's health causing respiratory diseases such as asthma and bronchitis. At the same time, traffic fumes attack the stonework of historic monuments and buildings, while the vibrations from passing vehicles damage their foundations. This, for instance, has happened to the Taj Mahal in Agra because of which private vehicles are not allowed in the vicinity of the Taj.

A second reason why I am in favour of cars being banned is in order to reduce the noise pollution from traffic, which forces people to keep their windows permanently closed and may cause psychological problems including stress and depression among people living in busy streets.

A further reason is that most cities were not designed for motor traffic. A good example of this is the old part of Ludhiana city in Punjab, which has narrow streets and few facilities for parking. As a result, traffic moves at a snail's pace and there are frequent traffic jams. Beautiful buildings are spoilt by always having cars parked in front of them and pretty streets become unpleasant due to permanent traffic congestion and exhaust fumes.

Finally, I am sure that if cars were banned, people would find other more pleasant ways to move around cities. For example, they would walk or use bicycles as these would once more become safe and enjoyable activities within the city. This in turn would bring about a general improvement in people's health.

In conclusion, therefore, I strongly support the idea that traffic should be banned from city centres, as this would enable people to rediscover cities as pleasant and healthy places to live.

**Plan followed**

Intro: agree

Para 1: First reason

- pollution from car exhausts
- damages people's health
- traffic fumes attack the stonework of historic monuments and buildings, while the vibrations from passing vehicles damage their foundations

Para 2: Second reason

- most cities were not designed for motor traffic – traffic jams – give an example

Para 3: Final reason

- if cars were banned, people would find other more pleasant ways to move around cities

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

In some countries, air travel has become a much cheaper form of transport than in the past. Some people say this is a positive development but other people disagree. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.

OR

In many countries plane tickets prices are cheaper. Is it positive or negative situation?

In today's world, we are now in a position to enjoy cheaper air flights than in the past. However, there is an argument whether this is beneficial or harmful. It is advantageous in terms of freedom and the opportunities to learn from other countries. It is detrimental in terms of the pollution it creates. So, it has both – advantages as well as disadvantages.

Cheap air flight can be beneficial in many ways. One of them is the opportunity to go overseas. Earlier, only the affluent could afford it, but now it is within the pocket of the ordinary man. Some of the discounted tickets are fairly cheap and flying abroad is no longer a dream for many. Moreover, small businesses have prospered because of the ease of travel because of these flights.

In addition to this, cheap air flights enable intercultural exchanges between countries. The advent of cheap air-fare makes it possible for people the world over to travel regularly, regardless of the purpose of the trip. Therefore, people have the opportunities to learn from different cultures and have a better understanding of countries they used to be unfamiliar with. This, in turn, enhances cultural communications between countries.

On the other hand, it is generally known that aeroplanes consume a vast amount of oil and the gas emission generated by an airplane is enormous. Therefore, the environmental impacts would only get worse in the long run. Besides, cheap air tickets at times are extremely disturbing in terms of certain conditions that go along with them. One problem is that the date and time cannot be changed once purchased. As a result, many people find it inconvenient if they are to reschedule due to emergency.

To conclude, cheap air fares have both pros and cons. I am convinced that giving people the freedom to travel is essential, but at the same time people should be made aware of avoiding un-necessary travel.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: more benefits

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

(Note: In the second topic of this essay change the intro by saying that it is both – a positive as well as a negative situation. Then write the essay in the same way.)

Some people think building more roads can reduce the traffic problems. What do you think of this solution? OR

Traffic jam is a problem in many towns and cities. Some people suggest that governments build wider roads in order to solve the problem. Do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that the increasing traffic is a grave problem but I disagree that constructing more roads can reduce the traffic problems. Trying to cure traffic congestion by adding more capacity is like trying to cure obesity by loosening your belt. Other measures are needed to solve this problem.

Not only is it futile to build more road capacity but it has been seen that building roads actually increases, not decreases, traffic congestion. Over the past 25 years, highway funding has been increased by 100 %, yet congestion has increased by 300%. It has become obvious that building more roads or enlarging existing roads does not reduce congestion.

One effective method to reduce traffic congestion is using public transportation. Since most car trips are by a single person driving alone, a bus substituted for driving can take 20, 30 or more cars off the road while a train has the potential to reduce congestion by hundreds of cars. A rail line can carry substantially more passengers using less physical space than a highway. Public transportation not only reduces congestion on the roads, but helps eliminate the necessity of building additional roads and benefits those who continue to travel by automobile, whether by choice or necessity.

Furthermore, there are many steps which people can take at the individual level to reduce congestion. Car-pooling is one such measure. If five people from one area have to go to the same office then each one can take his car per day. In addition, people can choose to walk or use bicycle for short distances.

To conclude, building more roads is not the solution for traffic congestion. It is essential that people use public transport and do car pooling to decrease the traffic on roads.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Disagree. Building roads does not solve traffic congestion

Para 1: Stats to prove that traffic has increased despite building more roads

Para 2: Other measures

- use public transport such as buses and trains

Para 3: steps at individual level

- car pooling
- walk or use bicycle for short distances

Conclusion:

In many countries, there are an increasing number of private cars. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?

Someone has rightly said that – “The car has become an article of dress without which we feel uncertain, unclad, and incomplete”. It is irrefutable that nowadays, the number of cars has increased at an unprecedented rate. This situation has both - advantages as well as disadvantages.

There are many advantages of car. The most important advantage is that it has given people freedom of movement. The ease of transportation which a car brings is more than any other form of transportation. For instance, you can go from destination to destination and no time is wasted waiting for the bus or train. Therefore, time and distance are not a barrier any more. What is more, families can go out together. This becomes especially helpful when there are elderly or the disabled and sick members in the family.

Furthermore, the automobile industry provides jobs to millions of workers. Filling stations, restaurants, and other businesses that serve automobile travelers are of major importance to a country's economy. In addition, many developing nations have begun making automobiles to boost their economy. That is why India has promoted many automobile manufacturing industries such as Tata and Mahindra.

On the other hand the disadvantages of the car cannot be overlooked. The increase in pollution, traffic jams and accidents are the natural sequel to the burgeoning population of cars. Moreover, our overdependence on cars can lead to decrease in practices such as walking and cycling and this has led to a number of diseases such as obesity.

On balance, the advantages to people's lives and the economic impact created by the car definitely outweigh the disadvantages. However, we must know when and how-much to use the car so that we can minimize the demerits to some extent

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Balanced intro as it is a discuss essay

Para 1: Advantages of car

- It takes you from destination to destination and you do not have to waste time
- Secondly, families can go out together and enjoy their outings more
- you can halt anywhere you need for some refreshments
- The car is also a blessing in times of emergencies

Para 2: More advantages

- Automobile industry – jobs – economy

Para 3: Disadvantages

- Pollution
- Traffic jams
- Accidents
- Decrease in healthy practices

Conclusion: Advantages more than disadvantages

Some people think that there will be decrease in international travel in future. Do you think the less amount of international travel is a positive or a negative development?

Because of economic reasons in some areas, international travel is becoming less common. I believe that it is largely a negative development. International travel has more positive than negative effects.

International travel can have many benefits for individuals. The most important benefit is that it provides regular employment for many local people who might otherwise be unemployed. They can find work in restaurants or hotels, or with tourist agencies as guides or drivers, for example, and earn regular wages. This, in turn, means that they may be able to save money and improve their standard of living. The second reason is that tourists spend money in the country and this allows local businesses such as restaurants, bars and taxi companies to flourish. In turn, other businesses, food suppliers or petrol stations, for instance, may be established in order to provide services to support the companies which cater for tourists. In other words, the whole economy of the region develops.

A third reason is that in order for tourists to be able to visit remote areas, roads, airports and hotels have to be built and local people also benefit by being able to use these new facilities. Furthermore, when communications improve, it becomes possible for other industries to move into the area, bringing with them more employment opportunities and increased prosperity. A final reason why I am in favour of tourism is that visitors from outside bring fresh ideas and different ways of doing things to the local community. Consequently, local people may learn from tourists. Likewise, visitors learn about the local people and culture, and return home with a deeper understanding of the host country.

On the other hand, that there are some problems associated with international travel. Firstly, there is the increasing crime rate. Some locals see tourists as easy prey because, not only are they in unfamiliar territory and therefore less able to take care of themselves, but also they carry visible items of wealth, such as cameras and jewellery which can be disposed of quickly for a profit. Another major problem is health. With greater mobility comes greater danger of spreading contagious diseases around the world. Also to be considered is the natural environment, which can be seriously threatened by too many visitors. Australia's Great Barrier Reef, for example, is in danger of being destroyed by tourists and there are plans to restrict visitors to some of the more delicate coral reefs.

To conclude, international travel has both advantages and disadvantages. However, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Therefore if international travel decreases, it is largely a negative development.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: it is largely a negative development as international travel has more positive than negative effects.

Para 1: advantages of international travel

- economy boosted

- jobs

Para 2: more advantages

- infrastructure develops

- culture exchange

Para 3: Disadvantages

- petty crime

- diseases

- damage to tourist places

Conclusion:

Travelling abroad is regarded as a valuable and good activity for young people, but some people think it takes too much time and money. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Youth travel is one of the fastest growing and most dynamic markets of the global tourism sector. Some individuals believe that travelling abroad is beneficial for the youth where as others opine that is wastage of time and money. This essay shall discuss both views before forming an opinion.

Some people consider it a waste of time and money because of several reasons. They believe that in today's era of cut-throat competition, young people should concentrate on their studies and careers. They do not earn yet and if they travel at a young age they are wasting their time as well as their parent's hard-earned money. What is more, they are not mature enough and may face problems while travelling such as food and language problems. Finally, they believe that today, the satellite TV and the internet has brought the whole world into their bedroom, so they should be doing other useful work instead of travelling.

On the other hand, travelling in young age has enormous benefits. It provides tremendous opportunities for fun, adventure and discovery. When young people visit places in other countries, they gain a better understanding of the people living there. They learn their cultures, history and background. They discover the similarities and differences. It is interesting to learn from people with diverse backgrounds.

Furthermore, research suggests that traveling overseas at a young age leads to successful careers. It helps them decide what they want in life. Traveling when young can be a great platform to diversify one's experience early in life and to discover one's purpose in life. Each country, each city, even each restaurant a person visits is an opportunity to experiment something different. It is better to realize one's true desires and potential early in life than when it is too late.

To conclude, it can be said that although travelling at a young age involves time and money it is worthwhile and has a lot of benefits for the youth. So if the young people get the chance to broaden their horizons and go and experience new places it may make a world of difference to them.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Why some people say it is a waste of time and money

- in today's era of cut-throat competition, young people should concentrate on their studies and careers
- they are not mature enough and may face problems while travelling such as food and language problems
- satellite TV and the internet has brought the whole world into their bedroom, so they should be doing other useful work instead of travelling

Para 2: Why it is useful

- It provides tremendous opportunities for fun, adventure and discovery
- gain a better understanding of the people living there
- They discover the similarities and differences

Para 3: traveling overseas at a young age leads to successful careers. It helps them decide what they want in life.

Conclusion:

Some people believe that travelling alone really benefits in learning a country's culture and experience, while others believe it is better to travel with someone you know. Discuss both these views and share your opinion.

Nowadays there is a significant increase in global tourism. While some people argue that solo travel is good for learning the host country's culture and enriching your experience, many others believe that travelling with partners is better. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

On the one hand, some people believe that travelling alone can enable a person to learn different customs and gain more experience. This is because you are alone in an alien environment and all your focus is on absorbing your surroundings and noticing the people around you. For instance, you will discover how the local residents talk, dress and even walk. If you need any help, you will have to ask the natives of that place and by interacting with them you will be able to understand their nature also. If you are with your friends or family, you will be engrossed among yourself and may miss a lot of these observations. Thus, it is clear that why some people hold this point of view.

On the other hand, many argue that it is better to travel with friends as this can have many benefits. First of all, it would substantially lower the cost of travelling. To illustrate, you will share the cost of the hotel and food and at times you may get discounts for certain group activities. Thus, you can enjoy the journey with your friends and save money.

Furthermore, when you are with someone you know, you feel secure. After all, you are in unknown surroundings and there is always security in numbers. You can also learn the country's culture when you are with friends. You can discuss your observations with those of your fellow travelers and you may get to see things from a different perspective. After analyzing these points of view, it is easy to see why many support this claim.

In conclusion, travelling alone is good to understand the local culture and experience, but definitely travelling with friends or family has an edge over travelling alone as you lower your cost of travelling, feel secure and share your experiences.

**Plan followed:**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of travelling alone

Para 2: Advantages of travelling with friends

Para 3: More advantages of travelling with friends

Conclusion:



Some people believe public transport should be free of charge. Do you think the advantages are more than disadvantages?

Some people opine that the finest solution to urban traffic problems is to provide free public transport round-the-clock. I however, beg to differ. I believe that free public transport could help in solving the traffic problem to some extent but it definitely would have more disadvantages.

Undoubtedly many people especially daily commuters would benefit from free public transport. But such a service would be a big burden on the governments as it would require a lot of funds to maintain such free services. Moreover, a considerable proportion of these services would be wasted as it would be underused on weekends and midnights. Therefore, it would not be practical on economical grounds to run free public transport.

There are a plethora of means to solve the traffic problems. The most effective would be to encourage people to use public transport. This could be done by decreasing the fare, increasing the comfort and increasing the frequency of public transport. Obviously, if people do not have to waste time waiting for the bus or train, get comfortable seats and have to pay far less than what they would have to spend on their own personal vehicle, then they would willingly choose public transport and would not mind paying for it. So this step would prove better than giving a totally free public transport.

Additionally, the government could levy toll tax and increase the price of fuel to discourage people to use their own cars. Media could be used to aware people about simple measures like car-pooling. For instance if five people from one block of flats have to go to the same office, they could each take out their car for one day a week. This would be a win-win situation for the environment and the people.

To sum up, having a totally free public transport would not be practical to implement as it would not be economically viable for the people. Therefore, it would not be a good method. The better methods would be to encourage people to use public transport by making it better.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Points against free public transport

Para 2: Better methods to reduce traffic congestion

Para 3: Better methods

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

Today the Internet has replaced traditional books as a source of information. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this development.

The Internet as the mainstream of media plays a very important role in transferring information. Some people assert that internet would take the place of books in the future. However, in my opinion, each medium has its own advantages and disadvantages. Books will always hold a place in our lives.

Admittedly, internet has made our lives very convenient. Firstly, it can transform information instantly. It can tell us what happened in the world right away with very impressive pictures. Secondly, it plays an important role in education. People can study history, culture, language and cooking skills from the internet. Even the books are now available in electronic format (e-books) and that is the reason some people find it a threat to the traditional, physical, book.

However, we should not neglect the importance of books which are very convenient to carry and easy to get. Books are available everywhere, such as in the library, in the book store, in your pocket or beside the pillow. After a day's work we can relax in our bed or sofa by reading some book or magazine. Books are also very good travel companions.

Moreover, it is very difficult to sit for long hours glued to the monitor screen. Eye strain and back pain are also some disadvantages of the internet. With so many power cuts, as in my country, we cannot rely on the internet. Last but not least, the day is not far when all people will be able to afford the internet connection.

To conclude, despite the threat of the internet, the book has maintained its place. So I feel we'll never go without books because they have served us so well for so long.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: a balanced approach as it is a discuss essay.

Para 1: Advantages of internet over books

- Convenient.
- It can transform information instantly. It can tell us what happened in the world right away with very impressive pictures.
- People can study history, culture, language and cooking skills from the internet.

Para 2: Advantages of printed book

- Very convenient to carry and easy to get.
- Books are available everywhere, such as in the library, in the book store, in your pocket or beside the pillow. After a day's work we can relax in our bed or sofa by reading some book or magazine.
- Books are also very good travel companions.

Para 3: Disadvantages of internet

- it is very difficult to sit for long hours glued to the monitor screen
- With so many power cuts, as in my country, we cannot rely on the internet.

Conclusion: Despite the threat of the internet, the book has maintained its place.

Radio will no longer be able to hold its presence as television and Internet media will replace it very soon. Do you agree or disagree?

In the past, radio was considered the most convenient and important source of information. Even today, despite the emergence of other media such as the TV and the internet, the radio has held its place as an important mass medium. I strongly disagree that the radio will lose its importance in the future. In fact its popularity will grow even further. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

One of the main reasons why radio will retain its value is because of the fact that driving has become very popular across the world as a way of life. Radio is a regular piece of equipment installed in a car, and to car users, listening to the radio while driving is an effective means of taking full advantage of their time and gaining the latest information, such as news, weather forecast, share markets, and so forth. As car use is likely to increase in future, the popularity of radio will also grow.

Secondly, for those people who have no time to watch TV, radio provides immediate and easy access to information. Another advantage of its continued popularity is that it is highly affordable. Radio broadcasting is free to the public, unlike the TV on which one has to pay for the channels of choice. Furthermore, the radio is portable. On the occasions where people cannot watch TV, read newspapers or surf the net, they can listen to the radio.

The newer technologies are also responsible for the popularity of radio. For example, people can get radio via satellite, the internet and cable nowadays. There are many other electronic devices, such as MP3 and MP4 players, which allow people to listen to the radio more easily and to use it for various entertainments, such as sharing their music collections. The only disadvantage of the radio is that it is unable to convey messages with sight and motion, as television or internet do. However, the radio is still able to serve the needs of audiences as it always did.

To conclude, the radio has many advantages that give it an edge over TV and the internet. Therefore, it will always remain popular.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: driving has become very popular across the world as a way of life. Radio is a regular piece of equipment installed in a car. As the use of car will increase, so will the popularity of radio.

Para 2:

- highly affordable. – even radio broadcast is free
- Portable
- On the occasions where people cannot watch TV, read newspapers or surf the net, they can listen to the radio.

Para 3: The newer technologies are also responsible for the popularity of radio.

Conclusion:

Nowadays people depend on newspapers, radios, television and the Internet for news and information. Which in your opinion is the best way for getting news and why?

People receive news from different sources. This essay shall compare four popular media from which people receive news - newspapers, radio, television and the internet and then come to a conclusion as to the best one out of these four.

Newspapers have better breadth which means that a large number of items, issues and viewpoints can be covered. They also have better depth which implies news can be presented in detail. Newspapers can also be read and re-read at one's convenience, as opposed to being scheduled to run only during fixed time periods as is the case with TV and radio. The disadvantage of newspaper is that the ability to comprehend news in print depends on educational and literacy level which is a clear-cut advantage in case of radio and TV.

Radio, can be accessed in a variety of situations. People listen to radio while they dress and eat in the morning, commute to and from work, perform work or study, have meals and so on. Radio news reporters can provide live, local coverage in a timely manner. However, the television has an edge over radio as it combines both sight and sound, which are the two major human senses for communication, and is therefore more appealing. With the appearance of all-news cable television networks, it is now possible to bring news coverage of important global events instantaneously.

The internet is the newest source of news and is fast becoming popular among the computer literate sections of society. However, its usage depends on availability and affordability. Theoretically, we can say that the Internet incorporates characteristics from ALL of the traditional media, such as sight, sound and online versions of newspapers and magazines.

To conclude, all these media are not equivalent and interchangeable with each other, as they have unique characteristics. It is very difficult to pin point which one is the best. The television, however, is the most pervasive news media.

#### Plan followed

Intro: Opinion to be reached after comparing the four media.

Para 1: advantages of newspapers

- Newspapers have better breadth
- Newspapers have better depth
- Newspapers can be read and re-read

Disadvantage

- Need some level of literacy to read the newspaper

Para 2: Advantages of TV and radio with some comparison

Para 3: Advantages and limitations of the Internet

Conclusion: very difficult to pin point which is the best. All have unique characteristics.

Among Internet, radio, TV and newspaper, which has the greatest effect on the social activity of people? Tell reasons.

In the last 50 years the media influence has grown exponentially with the advancement of technology. Each of these four media - internet, TV, newspapers and radio - impacts the social life of the people in different ways. All these media shape people's opinions, provides entertainment and information, is a link between the government and the people and helps in providing justice at times. All these media have their own importance and uniqueness. However, TV has the greatest influence on society as it is the most pervasive of all media.

Newspapers have better breadth which means that a large number of items, issues and viewpoints can be covered. They also have better depth which implies news can be presented in detail. Newspapers can also be read and re-read at one's convenience, as opposed to being scheduled to run only during fixed time periods as is the case with TV and radio. The disadvantage of newspaper is that the ability to comprehend news in print depends on educational and literacy level which is a clear-cut advantage in case of radio and TV.

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To conclude, all these media are not equivalent and interchangeable with each other, as they have unique characteristics. It is very difficult to pin point which one is the best. The television, however, is the most pervasive news media.

#### Plan followed

Intro: Tell how media affects people. TV has the maximum impact

Para 1: advantages of newspapers

- Newspapers have better breadth
- Newspapers have better depth
- Newspapers can be read and re-read

Disadvantage

- Need some level of literacy to read the newspaper

Para 2: Advantages of TV and radio with some comparison

Para 3: Advantages and limitations of the Internet especially on youth

Conclusion: very difficult to pin point which is the best. All have unique characteristics.

More and more media attention is being paid to famous people who are successful in sports and movies. Why do you think this is happening? Is this a good thing?

It would not be unfair to say that today's world is saturated with celebrity related news and gossip. We have access to the very latest news in the world of celebrities via various different mediums. This essay shall delve into the causes of this phenomenon. It is definitely not a good thing.

The main reason for this is that people idolize celebs and want to know about them. Celebs are role models for many. People want to be like them and that is why they want to know everything about them. The media is only responding to people's desires. To survive in today's world, the media, whether it is e-media or print media, has to focus on these big shots. Another reason for this is that the celebs themselves need the media coverage to survive in today's era of cut-throat competition. That is why the extent and quality of celebrity news in the media is multiplying at a great rate.

However, too much focus on the lives of celebrities is certainly harmful for the people as well as the celebs themselves. Too much focus on celebrities is diverting people's attention away from more important issues such as politics and the environment. For example, the public knows more about Salman Khan and his broken relationships than about many political issues. Another important point is that sometimes these celebs are negative role models for people. For instance, if a celebrity drinks or smokes then young people may copy him thinking that it is glamorous to drink and smoke.

Too much celebrity gossip can be detrimental for the celebs themselves. Everyone knows that Princess Diana died because she was being followed by the paparazzi. Celebrities' lives do not have any privacy and they cannot enjoy the simple things of life like a common man does. This increases the stress in their lives and their career also suffers as a result.

To conclude, the media does focus too much into the lives of famous people because of several reasons. However, it should understand its responsibility and use its power for the right cause. It should know where to draw the line and should also know how much is too much.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall delve into the causes of this phenomenon. It is definitely not a good thing.

Para 1: Reasons

- people idolize celebs and want to know about them
- To survive in today's world, the media, whether it is e-media or print media, has to focus on these big shots
- the celebs themselves need the media coverage to survive in today's era of cut-throat competition

Para 2: Why it is not good for people

- much focus on celebrities is diverting people's attention away from more important issues such as politics and the environment
- sometimes these celebs are negative role models for people

Para 3: Why it is not good for celebs

- Celebrities' lives do not have any privacy and they cannot enjoy the simple things of life like a common man does

Conclusion:

Some people say television contributes more than other modern inventions to the quality of life of ordinary people. Do you agree or disagree?

There is probably no greater influence on social issues and society itself than the television. It has become arguably the greatest invention of the past century. There is no doubt that it has significantly changed the life of the ordinary man. Other inventions such as the radio, the internet and cell phone also have affected man, but TV has an edge over all these.

With TV, people have witnessed countless historical events: Inaugurations of presidents; man's first steps on the moon; even disasters as they happen. We watch TV in the morning to receive the daily news. We eat watching it. We watch it before they go to bed. Thus the television eats up most of the time we get to stay at home. What is more, the advertisements succeed in giving rise to strong materialistic wants in us, which must be one of the reasons why we are becoming increasingly consumerist.

Radio, can be accessed in a variety of situations. We listen to radio while we dress and eat in the morning, commute to and from work, perform work or study, have meals and so on. Radio news reporters can provide live, local coverage in a timely manner. However, the television has an edge over radio as it combines both sight and sound, which are the two major human senses for communication, and is therefore more appealing. With the appearance of all-news cable television networks, it is now possible to bring news coverage of important global events instantaneously.

The internet is the newest source of news and is fast becoming popular among the computer literate sections of society. However, its usage depends on availability and affordability. Therefore TV has more impact on people. The youth are the most influenced by the Internet. The social network sites on the internet have made it possible for the youth to have the widest circle of friends. However, for all other segments of society, the TV has the maximum impact.

To sum up, it can be said that television has changed the life of the ordinary man beyond recognition. All other inventions also have their effect but TV is above all of them.

**Plan followed**

Intro: agree

Para 1: What all we see on TV – When-when we see the TV – Ads on TV

Para 2: Compare with radio

Para 3: Compare with Internet

Conclusion: reiterate your points

Some people are interested in international news, others prefer watching national news. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

All cultures whether literate or not have a thirst for news. The news plays a vital role in human affairs and also keeps us in touch with our environment. Some people just like to watch national news whereas others want to know all about the international arena. Before rendering my opinion, I think it is important to look at the argument on both sides.

Those in favour of national news contend that it is enough to know what is happening around them in our own country. They believe that what is happening a thousand or more miles away has no bearing on their lives and it is futile to go into the depth of that news. Their curiosity is satiated with political, social, sports and entertainment news of their own country. For example, most people in India follow the national political developments as it affects important aspects of their life such as their finance, health and education. They like to discuss national issues and express their concern over them.

Those interested in global news say that global news gives us a big picture view of what is happening around the country and the world. Today, the world is becoming more and more interconnected and a well-rounded understanding of politics, the environment, social structures and the global economy is needed in order to make important decisions of their lives. Some like to invest in the stock market which is affected by any happenings anywhere in the world. For example, when tsunami struck Japan in 2011, the stock market around the world saw a sudden dip.

Another reason of taking interest in international news is that today people travel the world for various purposes. Tourism has taken mammoth dimensions. For example, today people go for business tourism, religious tourism, education tourism, medical tourism, sports tourism, political tourism and remote tourism. Keeping in touch with international news keeps affects our decisions regarding our destination of travel and many more factors. Therefore international news is of paramount importance today.

To conclude, international news is very important in today's times. It does not, however, mean that national news is not important. I firmly believe that news of our own country is very important, but today we belong to a small global village and not a huge planet Earth. Therefore all news is local news.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: it is important to look at the argument on both sides

Para 1: views of those in favour of watching national news

Para 2: views of those in favour of watching international news

Para 3: more views of those in favour of watching national news

Conclusion: your opinion - news of our own country is very important, but today we belong to a small global village and not a huge planet Earth. Therefore all news is local news.



Recently, more and more people use the Internet to get information and buy goods. What do you think about the advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon?

The internet is probably one of the greatest inventions of the century. This essay intends to discuss the pros and cons of the internet.

Information is probably the biggest advantage that Internet offers. Internet is a virtual treasure trove of information. There is a huge amount of information available on the Internet for just about every subject known to man, ranging from government law and services, market information, new ideas and technical support.

Another big advantage of Internet is the speedy communication. Now, you can communicate in a fraction of second with a person who is sitting in the other part of the world. With the help of such services, it has become very easy to establish a kind of global friendship where you can share your thoughts and explore other cultures.

Entertainment is another popular reason why many people prefer to surf the Internet. Downloading games and songs or just surfing the websites are some of the uses people have discovered. Finally, with numerous online services you can now do net-banking, book tickets for a movie, pay utility bills, taxes etc., sitting at home.

On the other hand, if you use the Internet for online banking, social networking or other services, you may risk a theft to your personal information such as name, address, credit card number etc., which may land you in serious trouble.

Secondly, Internet users are often plagued by virus attacks on their systems. Virus programs may end up crashing your software and sometimes even hardware. Furthermore, Internet allows you to access and download millions of pornographic photos, videos and other X-rated stuff. This can be detrimental for children and teenagers.

Finally, people now only meet on social networks and face to face communication has taken a back seat. More and more people are getting are drifting apart from their friends and family. Even children prefer to play online games rather than going out and mingling with other kids.

To conclude, with all its falls the internet has the potential to make your life simple and convenient, as well as wreak havoc in your life. With clever use, you can manage to harness its unlimited potential.

Plan followed:

Intro

Para 1, 2 and 3: Advantages

Para 4, 5 and 6: Disadvantages

Conclusion

Films can have effect on the children's education and teach them many things. Do you think it is always a positive influence? Discuss.

It is irrefutable that movies can be very educative for children. However, the effect of movies is not always beneficial. In the following paragraphs, I intend to discuss the positive and negative effects of movies on children.

On the positive side, movies are enjoyable for children of all ages. They stimulate children's emotions, imaginations and conversations. Movies also introduce children to cultures and historical events. Movies used in the classroom enhance learning. Therefore, if the movies are good they can have a very positive influence on a child's growth.

On the downside, children are negatively affected by movies with sex, violence drug abuse and offensive language. Older children and adolescents may copy the risky things they see in movies. What is more, movies glamorize things like smoking and drinking and children are quick to pick up these traits.

Furthermore, watching too many movies can impede the development of healthy habits like playing outdoor games, reading and spending quality time with family. Children who are avid film viewers are more likely to suffer from obesity related problems throughout their lives.

I believe that as everything has its pros and cons, movies too can have both - good and bad influences. It is very important for parents to check the movie ratings before allowing their children to watch any movies. The best thing for parents could be to watch movies with their children. Watching movies together could be a very rewarding experience.

To summarise, movies can have a positive or a negative influence on children but if parents take steps in choosing their children's movies, then the effect can be largely positive.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: It has both positive and negative effects

Para 1: Positive effects

Para 2: Negative effects

Para 3: Negative effects

Para 4: Own opinion

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

Some people who failed at school can be highly successful in their adult life. Discuss why does this happen? And what are the main factors to get a successful life?

It is often seen that some students who are not very brilliant in school time become very successful in their adult life. There could be many reasons for this phenomenon, a few of which I shall put forth in this essay Along with some factors for a successful life.

To begin with it could be said that some students may not be good at studies, but may have some talent in them which could make them reach the pinnacle of their careers and they could become rich and successful. For example, one of my class fellows always used to fail at school, but he was a born singer. He took part in a reality show of singing and reached the third last elimination round. Although he did not win the show, but ever since then he has his evenings booked for shows and he is earning handsomely well. Here the main factor for success is inborn talent.

Another reason could be attributed to the education system which relies on rote learning and in which too much emphasis is given to theory and very little to practical. Because of this some intelligent students may be left behind in studies and those with good rote learning capability could pass with flying colours. Later on in life, when they enter the world of work, they may succeed in life because of their practical skills. Furthermore, some students may be very good at some sports or other extracurricular activities. They may succeed in life because they work hard in those sports and excel in them. Who has not heard of the famous cricketer Sachin Tendulkar. He was a school drop-out and failed his board exams. Here the factor for success is the hard work and perseverance later on in life.

Some children are born with a silver spoon in their mouth. They may take school very non-seriously but may be very successful in life because they may get business tactics from their parents which may make life smooth sailing for them. The son of the biggest cloth merchant of my home town is a school dropout but he has got very good business acumen and today he is earning much more than the highly educated elite of my home town. Here the factor for success is family support.

To conclude, there are many reasons why many, who fail at school succeed in adult life but such examples are not very common and a lot many school failures have to struggle throughout their lives.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: There could be many reasons for this phenomenon, a few of which I shall put forth in this essay.

Para 1: the main factor for success is inborn talent.

Para 2: Another reason could be attributed to the education system which relies on rote learning and those with good rote learning capability could pass with flying colours.

Para 3: Here the factor for success is family support.

Conclusion:

Some people say that in our modern age it is unnecessary to teach children about the skills of handwriting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

A common opinion is that with the increasing role computers play in our society; handwriting is no longer an important skill to learn at an early age. Unfortunately this opinion is misguided. I firmly believe that handwriting is very important even in today's era of technology. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Handwriting is important because research shows that when children learn how to do it, they also learn how to express themselves. Handwriting is so much more than simply putting letters on a page; it is a key part of learning to communicate. Writing is almost as important as speaking, as a medium for communicating thought. For this reason it is said that "Writing is a secondary power of speech, and they who cannot write are in part dumb." Scrawls that cannot be read may be compared to talking that cannot be understood; and writing difficult to decipher, to stammering speech.

Handwriting is also important because kids are required to use it daily in school from kindergarten on. Children who struggle with the mechanics of handwriting may have trouble taking notes or tests or completing their schoolwork. This can affect both their self-esteem and their attitude toward school. Good handwriting can mean better grades. Studies show that the same mediocre paper is graded much higher if the handwriting is neat and much lower if the writing is not.

What is more, handwriting proficiency inspires confidence. The more children practice a skill such as handwriting, the stronger the motor pathways become until the skill becomes automatic. Once it's mastered, children can move on to focus on the subject, rather than worry about how to form letters. Furthermore, handwriting aids memory. For example, if a person writes a list or a note — then loses it — he is much more likely to remember what he wrote than if he just tried to memorize it.

In summary, handwriting skills are very essential even today. Apart from being a tool of communication, it helps the brain develop, it can improve grades and confidence and also aids memory.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Writing is a method of communication

Para2: Handwriting improves grades

Para3: Improves confidence and memory

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

**Some people think if students are afraid of the teacher it is better. Others say that having a friendly relation is better. What do you think? Or Is it good for student to be afraid of teacher or teacher should be friendly with student. Discuss both points and give your opinion?**

Young children are buildings under construction and teachers are the builders. It is a highly debatable issue whether teachers should be friendly or strict. In my opinion, extremes of both approaches are bad. A good teacher should know when to be friendly and when to be strict and also know the degree of friendliness and strictness required.

There are many advantages if teachers are strict. To begin with, discipline can only be maintained if teachers are strict. For example, if students are afraid of the teacher, they will attend classes regularly and complete their work in time. But, if the teacher is too strict, then the students may lose interest in the subject and may not come to the teacher with their problems.

On the other hand, a friendly teacher is like a good mentor with whom students can share their problems. Students also take more interest in the subject. Students bloom under the guidance of such a teacher. The disadvantage, however, is that a too friendly or partial attitude results in diversion from studies.

In my opinion, a good teacher should be like a friend, philosopher and guide for his students. But, from time to time, he should pull the reins so that the students do not go out of hand. After all, he is shaping the future of the nation. There is a well known saying in Sanskrit that 'Acharya Devo Bhava' which means that a teacher is like a God.

To conclude, it has to be decided by the teacher when to be friendly or strict and how much degree of friendliness or strictness is required because extremes of both approaches are detrimental for the future of a student and ultimately for the future of a nation.

#### Plan followed

Intro - highly debatable issue whether teachers should be friendly or strict. In my opinion, extremes of both approaches are bad.

Para 1: Adv of teacher being strict and disadvantages of being too strict

- Discipline
- Students attend classes regularly and complete their work in time

Para 2: Advantages of teachers being lenient and disadvantages of being too lenient

- a friendly teacher is like a good mentor with whom students can share their problems
- Students also take more interest in the subject

Para 3: Teacher should know when to be strict and when to be lenient

Conclusion:

Some people say that to become a good teacher, you should acquire enough training, while others say that teaching capabilities can be developed with experience. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It is a matter of intense debate whether training is required to become a good teacher or if one can become a good teacher just with experience. This essay shall look into both arguments before reaching a conclusion.

There are many reasons why teacher training is considered necessary. To begin with, it can be said that mere knowledge of the subject is not enough to be a good teacher. Teachers have to fight against pressures from multiple fronts. They have to cope with unending parental expectations, pressures from the management of the school, handling misbehaved students etc in class of at least 40 students. And above all since they are teachers, children future is in their hands so they have to do their best in making children learn. Teacher training ensures that teachers are well prepared to cope with all such challenges.

It is easy to understand why some believe that teaching capabilities can be developed with experience alone and therefore teacher training is not needed. They have a point because in most of the teacher training schools, teachers are given training at the end of the session just to complete a formality. The trainers provide stray bits of advice which actually are of no use to teachers but wastage of time. Such training is futile and therefore majority of the teachers learn through their own experience or through the experience and guidance of their senior colleagues.

In my opinion, teachers are the backbone of education. They play an important role in moulding our country's future. Therefore, teacher's education should be regarded as a serious issue and should give preference. It goes without saying that experience does matter, but teachers are expected to perform right from day one and unless they have gone through some training, they are unable to do so. If they have to rely on experience alone, it may take them ages to become a good teacher.

To conclude, I would like to say that both teacher training and experience are needed to be really good teachers. Teacher training is very important in the early stages of a teacher's career. However, this training should be really good and not just a formality.

#### Plan followed

Intro: Balanced view as it is a discuss essay

Para1: why teacher training is considered necessary

Para 2: why some believe that teaching capabilities can be developed with experience alone

Para 3: In my opinion

Conclusion: teacher training should be there

Some people think young people are suitable for learning foreign languages. Some people think adults are more suitable. Discuss both and give your opinion.

Learning a new language is an activity which is very useful and takes a considerable amount of time. Some people opine that children learn a foreign language quicker than adults. Others believe that adults are better equipped to learn a new language. This essay shall look into both sides of the argument before forming an opinion.

There is no doubt that a young mind readily absorbs new information. Child psychologists often mention that the most formative years of learning happen in the first few years of life. Therefore, what children are exposed to is very often retained and remembered. In this way, a child is in a good position to learn the new information associated with a new language. What is more, children also don't have any hesitations while learning; they are not afraid that others will laugh at them if they speak wrongly.

However, there are a number of significant advantages for the adult language learner. Firstly, the adult learner has his or her first language to compare with the new language. In this way, new terms or concepts are very quickly understood by comparing them with concepts or ideas that are already known.

In addition, adults often have a strong motivation to learn a new language. When learning a language is connected to an employment opportunity, the learner is typically very focused and motivated. Also, because most adult learners have participated in study earlier in their lives, they are usually aware of what has worked best in their learning experience and therefore approach the new language with more mature and realistic expectations.

To conclude, in learning a new language, adults and children, both are good, but adults definitely have an edge

### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall look into both sides of the argument before forming an opinion

Para1: why young learn better

- young mind readily absorbs new information
- children also don't have any hesitations while learning

Para 2: why adults learn better

- adult learner has his or her first language to compare with the new language

Para 3: why adults learn better

- have a strong motivation to learn a new language
- approach the new language with more mature and realistic expectations

Conclusion: adults are better at learning

An increasing number of people decide to learn a foreign language. What is the most difficult part when learning a foreign language? How can the learner overcome these difficulties?

*If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.*  
(Nelson Mandela)

In this era of globalization, it is often beneficial to be bilingual or multilingual. Learning a foreign language may be a piece of cake for some while others may take years to master it. There are many components of language learning. This essay shall outline the toughest part of learning a foreign language and also suggest some solutions to overcome these problems.

One of the challenges in learning a foreign language is phonological differences. No language makes use of all the many sounds the human speech organs can produce, and no two languages use exactly the same set. In other words, the student should be aware of the differences in the system of sounds between the mother tongue and the new language. There are some sounds that do exist in one language but not in the other language. For instance, Hindi has approximately half as many vowels and twice as many consonants than English. This leads to several problems of pronunciation.

Moreover, vocabulary, grammar and the sentence structure of the new language have to be learnt which may be a daunting task for many. For example, the standard word order in Hindi is Subject-Object-Verb as against Subject-Verb-Object in English. Thus it can be very difficult for a person to obey the grammar rules and the sentence structure of the new language every time. What is more, while learning a foreign language one needs a partner with whom to practice. This could be the most difficult part in learning a foreign language.

However, if a person is determined he can overcome all these hurdles and be proficient in the new language acquisition. One should join a language course if available in the propinquity of one's residence or join an online course. Learning a new language is an ongoing process and one should be willing to give it time every single day. Practice is the key to success. Reading newspapers in that language would also be useful. Adding a few new words to one's vocabulary would definitely help and last but not least, one should listen to the native speakers as often as possible. This can be done by watching movies in that particular language. If a person can afford the time and money, he should stay for some time in the country where that language is spoken to learn the language better.

To conclude, learning a foreign language is a challenge. Learning accurate pronunciation is the most difficult task. But, all these difficulties can be overcome with determination and practice.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Problem and solution intro

Para 1: Problems

- phonological differences
- Para 2: more problems
- vocabulary, grammar and the sentence structure
- finding a partner to practice
- Para 3: Solutions
- join a language course
- Practice is the key to success
- Reading newspapers in that language
- by watching movies in that particular language
- If a person can afford the time and money, he should stay for some time in the country where that language is spoken

Conclusion:



People find it very difficult to speak in public or to give a presentation before an audience. Do you think public speaking skill is really important? Give reasons. Some people say public speaking should be taught at school. Do you agree or disagree?

Public speaking and oration are the most valued skills that an individual can possess. These skills can be used for almost anything. The most influential prophets and leaders were those who could sway their audiences verbally. The Powerful oratory skills of many leaders have won wars, averted mass panic and saved companies from financial disaster. Unfortunately, speaking in public is one of the most feared activities today. In the following paragraphs, I shall delve into the importance of the skill of public speaking. I believe that it should definitely be a part of the school curricula.

To begin with, public speaking is interrelated with communication skills and can be described as a form of communication. Public speaking does not always mean that you have to give a speech to a large audience. When you go for an interview, and speak to a group of interviewers or when you are giving a class presentation; all these are also a form of public speaking. In such situations, if you have the ability to communicate properly, it can help you shape up your future. Secondly, it helps to overcome fear. Surveys have revealed that most people are afraid of public speaking more than their fear of death. The major reason is that one has to gather a thorough knowledge of the subject matter on which one has to speak. Once a person goes into the depth of any topic, he realizes that his anxieties and fears associated with it go down quite remarkably.

Furthermore, this skill helps in personality development. When a person successfully delivers a good speech, it gives a sense of self-worthiness. A positive response from the audience can help a person feel more confident. Thus, it can bring about a lot of improvement in one's overall personality. Last but not least, the art of public speaking improves relationships. Once a person develops good public speaking skills, a marked improvement can be seen in his interpersonal skills, which in turn, will help him maintain a healthy relationship with his friends and family. Even in one's professional life, an effective interaction with one's boss, clients or subordinates can help a person enhance the possibility of advancement in his chosen profession.

In our present teaching system, writing and reading seems to be the main focus of literacy, and oratory skills are not stressed. The system needs to change, so that it can focus more of its resources on teaching how to interact in the world. Almost all jobs require an interview, and if one doesn't know the workings of a job interview, he will probably do poorly. But if the schools teach the skills of public speaking, appearing for an interview would be a piece of cake.

To conclude, the art of public speaking is very important in today's scenario. If today's children overcome glossophobia or the fear of speaking in public, they would stand a much better chance in the highly competitive global village of today

### **Plan followed**

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of public speaking

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Why schools should teach public speaking

Conclusion:

In some countries students are required to learn a foreign language, but in other countries it is not necessary to do so. Discuss the benefits of each case and give your own opinion.

In some countries, more than one language is compulsory. Sometimes pupils have to start learning a language at primary school. Foreign languages are less often compulsory in English-speaking countries. This is probably because English is widely understood worldwide. This essay shall delve into the advantages of having to study a foreign language as well as the advantages of no such compulsion.

Foreign languages are important for the economy. The more languages someone can speak the more places they can work. Employers value people who are able to speak more than one language. Learning a language will therefore help students get good jobs when they are older. It will also increase their understanding of other cultures. Moreover, foreign language skills help companies do business with other countries. It is especially important that children whose native language is not widely spoken (e.g. Hindi, Danish) learn other languages. It is also important for English-speakers to learn foreign languages, since not everyone speaks English. What is more, it is polite to be able to speak some of another person's language. Governments should try to promote economic growth. Since languages are important for the economy, governments should make all young people learn them.

On the other hand, there are obvious advantages of not forcing a foreign language on students. To begin with, many young people are hardly able to do simple sums or read and write in their own language. Therefore, more time can be spent on these basic skills, not foreign languages. Cultural understanding can be gained in other subjects such as history and Geography. Foreign language should be an optional subject and not obligatory. Young people have to learn to make choices. If they do not realize the benefits of learning languages, these benefits should be explained to them. If pupils choose to study a language, they are more likely to be keen and interested than if it is something they are forced to do. In any case, many adults do successfully learn new languages through evening classes or distance-learning courses if they feel the need to learn one later on in life.

On balance, there are more advantages of being bilingual or multilingual than being monolingual. In India English is taught as a second language right from primary school. That is why Indian economy has picked up very fast as many MNCs have opened here. Even countries like Canada have begun to realize the importance of a second language and French or Punjabi is taught in many areas as a second language. It has also been proved by researches that bilingual students do better in other subjects too.

Summing up, although there are advantages of having a mandatory foreign language and not having any such obligation, it is better to study a foreign language than not study one.

#### Plan followed

**Intro:** Discuss essay intro

**Para 1:** Advantages of a compulsory foreign language

- more languages someone can speak the more places they can work
- will also increase their understanding of other cultures
- help companies do business with other countries
- it is polite to be able to speak some of another person's language

**Para 2:** advantages of not forcing a foreign language on students

- many young people are hardly able to do simple sums or read and write in their own language. Therefore, more time can be spent on these basic skills
- Foreign language should be an optional subject and not obligatory. Young people have to learn to make choices.

**Para 3:** On balance

- More beneficial to be bilingual than monolingual
- It has also been proved by researches that bilingual students do better in other subjects too

**Conclusion:** opinion

In some countries, children start school at the age of seven, so they could have more time to build relationship with their parents. In other countries, children start school when they are 4 years old. Do the advantages outweigh its disadvantages?

Some people believe that the ages of six or seven are the best years for young people to commence educational studies. However, enrolling students in school at an earlier age has more advantages. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The first advantage is the head start in learning that students who begin their studies at a younger age will experience. It is a well-known fact that the younger an individual is the easier it is for him or her to acquire knowledge and information. A young student is therefore in the best possible position to learn new information and this will put them in a much stronger position for success in later schooling years.

Another advantage with students beginning their school studies earlier involves their use of time. Unfortunately, many children waste a considerable amount of time at home. Their activities are often counter-productive 'time-fillers' such as watching cartoons on TV and video and other general time wasting activities at home. On the other hand, when students attend school, they are purposefully engaged in activities that stimulate their minds and encourage them to develop and improve.

Students who go to school at an earlier age give themselves the best possible chance to discover their natural talents. They may be good at science or mathematics or music and by starting school earlier, they are able to explore and build a stronger foundation upon these skills than if they had waited until age six or seven. They can build upon the successes enjoyed at an early age.

Those who oppose sending children to school early think that childhood comes only once and that children should not be burdened with books at a younger age. They feel that children need to spend time with parents and acquire some social knowledge before they start school.

To sum up, the merits of going to school early outweigh the demerits.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Advantages of going to school early outweigh the disadvantages.

Para 1: Advantage of going to school early

- Head start in learning

Para 2: another advantage

- Do not waste time - are purposefully engaged in activities that stimulate their minds and encourage them to develop and improve

Para 3: Another advantage

- Students who go to school at an earlier age give themselves the best possible chance to discover their natural talents

Para 4: Opponents view

- children should not be burdened with books at a younger age
- children need to spend time with parents and acquire some social knowledge before they start school

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

Some people say subjects like arts, music, drama and creative writing are more beneficial to children, and therefore they need more of these subjects to be included in their timetable. Do you agree or disagree?

Arts have little or no place in the educational curriculum so far because we have a feeling that time spent on these things is time wasted. Recent studies, however, have shown that a good curriculum that includes arts education can have multiple benefits which I shall highlight in this essay.

The most important benefit of arts in schools is that it contributes to making a well rounded student. Not only that, certain forms of arts instruction enhance and complement academic skills such as basic reading skills, language development and writing skills. So, children do well in other subjects also.

Another big advantage is that it encourages the pursuit of extra-curricular activities. Children get a chance to show their creative expression. When such hidden abilities are exposed in school time then those with exceptional talent can be encouraged to adopt it as a profession later-on in life. It is a well known fact that people in such professions are earning telephone figure salaries nowadays.

Last but not least, such subjects are stress-busters. In the highly competitive era of today, pressure of academic subjects is too high. Arts like music, drama and creative writing break the monotony of tough academic studies.

To conclude, our educational curriculum needs a serious revision and more of such subjects need to be added to the school curriculum. They complement academic study, bring out hidden talent and break the ennui of tough academic studies.

#### Plan followed

Intro: a good curriculum that includes arts education can have multiple benefits which I shall highlight in this essay

Para 1: advantage

- it contributes to making a well rounded student.

Para 2: another advantage

- it encourages the pursuit of extra-curricular activities. Children get a chance to show their creative expression

Para 3: another advantage

- these subjects are stress busters

Conclusion:

Some people think children should attend extra classes after school, while others disagree. Discuss both opinions and give your own view.

Today, we belong to an era of cut-throat competition. Parents want their children to excel in everything. That is why some parents arrange for tuitions outside class hours. Other people, however, are opposed to tuitions. This essay shall discuss the advantages and disadvantages of tuitions.

Private tuitions can be advantageous in many ways. To begin with, private tutors can re-explain the topics learnt in the class and reiterate key points and help to solve problems students find difficult to tackle. Secondly, allocating times for private tuition reduces their time spent in useless pursuits such as chatting with friends and watching TV. Private tutors also help to motivate the students to study hard.

Furthermore, sometimes students may lose their motivation to work hard. A private tutor can keep the students on the right track when they stray off course. For example, private tutors can help parents to reprimand their children if they become too playful. Private tutors can assign homework to them, so that they can spend their time in a more meaningful way. A private tutor can thus act as a role of disciplinarian. What is more, sometimes students have personal problems that they find hard to confide in their parents. At that time tutors can act as a 'listening ear' and help them resolve some of their problems.

On the other hand, having private tuition also has its disadvantages. Sometimes tutors provide additional homework on top of those given by teachers in school. The extra homework from tutor is an added burden to the students. Moreover, private tuition can be a financial burden to parents who are poor. Additionally, some students just use these extra tuitions to finish their homework given by schools with the help of tutors without thinking through the solutions by themselves.

On balance, I believe that when student is a slow learner who needs a tutor outside school, tuition is very necessary. However, there are some parents who have unreasonable expectations. They insist that their children engage private tutor even though their children perform well academically. This is not good at all because children need time for other activities also.

In conclusion, it is good to have private tuition provided the student really needs one and the parents can afford it. However, if the student is already doing well in school, then he should be allowed to follow other pursuits. The benefits are also plentiful if parents manage to find a good tutor who can play various roles to help his students to achieve academic success.

#### Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages

- private tutors can re-explain the topics learnt in the class and reiterate key points
- reduces their time spent in useless pursuits

Para 2: Advantages

- A private tutor can keep the students on the right track when they stray off course
- Private tutors can assign homework to them, so that they can spend their time in a more meaningful way
- sometimes students have personal problems that they find hard to confide in their parents

Para 3: Disadvantages

- Sometimes tutors provide additional homework – burden
- private tuition can be a financial burden
- some students just use these extra tuitions to finish their homework given by schools

Para 4: own view

- good for weak students if parents can afford
- not good for those students who are already doing well at school

Conclusion:

Some people think that the young children benefit from going to the nursery school before starting primary school. Others think it is better for the young children to stay all day with the families. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The appropriateness of preschools and nursery schools has always been a debated issue. It should be left on the parents to weigh the pros and cons of nursery schools before deciding on one.

On the positive side, social interaction is probably the most important skill children learn in preschool. School is not just about academic learning. It is also about developing the skills needed to get along with others, learning how to share, taking turns, handling conflicts, and listening to one another. Interacting with other children teaches them these social skills and generally improves their communication skills. Secondly, a good preschool program also teaches children pre-literacy skills such as learning all the letters of the alphabet and basic math concepts such as number and quantity.

Additionally, preschool also helps to prepare children for school by helping them learn appropriate classroom behavior, how to interact with adults other than their parents, and gives them an opportunity to build their independence. What is more, exposure to different types of activities such as playing with blocks and listening to poetry and songs are just a few of the many experiences children benefit from in a fun learning environment. While most children may have access to do these activities with their parents, it is a completely different experience for them when they have the opportunity to play with their peers.

On the other hand, there can be some disadvantages of preschools. Firstly, if the children are not monitored properly, they will also learn negative social skills such as teasing, bullying, and fighting. Secondly, children **do not get enough quality time with their parents**. Moreover, children in preschool programs are exposed to a number of illnesses, so they get sick more often than kids who stay at home. Finally, good quality nursery schools may be very expensive.

To sum up, quality nursery schools can enrich kids' lives, build socialization skills and enhance their development. But these types of programs can also be expensive, expose kids to a plethora of illnesses and cause missed quality time with parents. After weighing the advantages and disadvantages of preschool programs, parents can decide for themselves what's best for their child.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages

- children learn social interaction in preschool
- a good preschool program also teaches children pre-literacy skills such as learning all the letters of the alphabet and basic math concepts such as number and quantity

Para 2: Advantages

- learn appropriate classroom behavior
- exposure to different types of activities such as playing with blocks and listening to poetry and songs are just a few of the many experiences children benefit from in a fun learning environment

Para 3: Disadvantages

- if the children are not monitored properly, they will also learn negative social skills such as teasing, bullying
- children do not get enough quality time with their parents
- exposed to a number of illnesses

Conclusion: Choice of parents

Nowadays, an increasing number of countries are confronted with the disappearance of cooking skills. What is the situation like in your country? Do you agree that the young children should be taught home cooking in school? (disagree)

The fast paced life of today and the easy availability of ready to eat foods have made cooking skills take a back seat in many parts of the world. Fortunately, culinary skills are still hale and hearty in India. I disagree that cooking should be taught in schools. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, today children are already burdened with many academic subjects. Today's child does not have to compete with children of his country, but with children of this shrunken planet, this global village. Adding another subject like cooking is not at all wise. What is more, cooking is something which children can learn as and when the need arises. Today, the technology is so advanced that if you need any recipe, just search on the internet and even the detailed videos are available. There is no need to waste precious schooldays on this skill.

Secondly, cooking is not a theoretical subject; it has more of a practical component. It would, therefore, be a big burden on the infrastructure of the schools to provide kitchen laboratories. What is more, children could suffer injuries while working in these school kitchens. Finally cooking is something which one keeps learning while doing throughout life. Therefore, there is no need to incorporate this subject in the school curricula.

Cooking could be added as an optional subject in the senior secondary classes so that those students who are serious about learning cooking or who want to make it their profession could be able to study it. This approach would be more suitable and would not add to the burden of school education.

To conclude, there is no doubt that home cooking is a disappearing skill in many countries, even then it would not be advisable to add it as a subject in schools.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: disagree

Para1: already burdened with many academic subjects

Para 2: Burden on the infrastructure of schools

Para 3: Could be added as an optional subject in senior secondary classes.

Conclusion:

Nowadays, an increasing number of countries are confronted with the disappearance of cooking skills. What is the situation like in your country? Do you agree that the young children should be taught home cooking in school? ( agree)

The fast paced life of today and the easy availability of ready to eat foods have made cooking skills take a back seat in many parts of the world. Fortunately, culinary skills are still hale and hearty in India. I agree that cooking should be taught in schools. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, today children belong to nuclear families and in most cases both parents are working. If children know cooking, they can cook for themselves in times of need. They will not have to sleep hungry or eat some unhealthy readymade alternative. Secondly, today many students go abroad for their higher education. There they would not face any food problem if they have culinary skills.

Furthermore, cooking can unite the whole family. While cooking, everyone can talk and share their experiences. All of the family members can help in chopping, slicing and cooking the dinner. Hence, if schools teach culinary arts, students can learn the importance of cooking leading them in uniting the whole family.

Another big advantage would be that children would also know the value of healthy ingredients of food. As it is, today, children are suffering from obesity. This is mainly because of the fast foods available. If cooking is taught in schools, then children will also be taught the side effects of eating such junk food which is saturated with low quality fats and salts. Definitely, they would refrain from eating too much fast food.

To conclude, there is no doubt that home cooking is a disappearing skill in many countries. Therefore, it would be advisable to add it as a subject in schools.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree

Para1: would be able to cook for themselves if both parents working

- When they go abroad to study would not face food problems

Para 2: Culinary skills unite the family

Para 3: would also be taught the healthy ingredients of food

Conclusion:



In some countries, schools are open late so that children can be looked after when parents are at work. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages.

In nuclear families where both parents are working there has been a growing trend of schools which open till the late hours. This essay shall look into the pros and cons of such schools.

There are many advantages of such schools. The main advantage is that attendance in such schools can provide children with supervision during this crucial time. When the dismissal bell rings, many children go home to empty houses and many others hang out on the streets until their parents return home. Children left unsupervised after school often fall prey to deviant behaviors that are harmful to them, to their schools, and to their communities. They are more likely to be involved in delinquent acts during these hours. Numerous reports have documented that a high proportion of juvenile crimes are committed between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. each day. Such extended school hours occupy students productively during these hours.

In addition to providing supervision, after-school and extended school-day programs are now being seen as a means of improving academic achievement of students who are not achieving as well as they need to during regular school hours. These schools are also providing opportunities for providing social, cultural, and recreational activities. In this way they provide enriching experiences that broaden children's perspectives and improve their socialization.

On the other hand, such schools also have their demerits. The most important is that these are generally very costly. They may be hard on the pockets of many parents. Another disadvantage is that once the child gets home there is very little time left to interact with the parents. The child is so tired that after coming home he takes his meals and goes to bed.

To conclude, the benefits derived from the use of such schools definitely outweigh the demerits. They are the best option when both parents are working and there is no one at home to care for them. As far as the cost factor is concerned, parents can weigh the advantages according to their needs and take decisions accordingly.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall look into the pros and cons of such schools

Para 1: Advantage

- such schools can provide children with supervision during this crucial time.

Para 2: more advantages

- improve academic achievement
- also provide opportunities for providing social, cultural, and recreational activities.

Para 3: Demerits

- costly
- interaction with parents is less

Conclusion:

In modern society, many people think that primary schools should teach science and technology rather than history and geography which are useless and boring. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Some people opine that traditional subjects such as history and geography should not be taught in primary schools as they are boring and just add to the burden on primary school students. They believe that science and technology should be there in primary schools. I agree that arts subjects should be axed from the primary school curricula. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, it has to be made clear that removing history and geography from the primary school syllabus does not mean these subjects are less important. These subjects are as important as science and technology. The main concern is to lessen some burden off the primary school children. These subjects must be incorporated in middle and high school curricula. At the primary school level, children need to be introduced to science and technology because today's children belong to an era of science and technology.

Secondly, if teachers have to teach fewer subjects, they would be able to do so in greater depth. If there is curriculum overload, then all subjects would be taught superficially and the foundation of the child would not be strong. If all subjects are taught, then children usually resort to rote learning which is definitely inferior to meaningful learning. What is more, science and technology are more interesting than history and geography, so in early years, children will develop interest in studying which will continue into later years.

Finally, schools should give priority to science and technology skills, with a greater focus on children's health, wellbeing and personal development. What is generally seen is that the weight of the primary school student's bag is heavier than the weight of the student himself. So the child is physically unhealthy and cannot bloom properly. Their individuality is snubbed. At the primary stage the child should be engaged in joyfully exploring the world around and harmonizing with it. The objectives at this stage are to nurture the curiosity of the child about the world and not to overburden the child.

To conclude, the demands of society on primary schools have risen and continue to rise but if we are to establish a 'world class' high quality curriculum, we must face the reality of prescribing less so that teachers can better teach and children can better learn. Science and technology must be started early and the arts subjects can be started after primary school years.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree. Arts subjects should be axed from the primary school curricula

Para 1: main concern is to lessen some burden off the primary school children

Para 2: if teachers have to teach fewer subjects, they would be able to do so in greater depth

Para 3: greater focus on children's health, wellbeing and personal development

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

Some people think that secondary school students should study academic subjects (such as history and physics). While others believe they should study practical subjects (such as car machinery and cookery). Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some individuals are of the opinion that secondary school curricula should have academic subjects such as history and physics where as others opine that students should study practical subjects like car machinery and cookery. This essay shall look at both arguments before forming a conclusion.

Those who wish academic subjects in the school syllabus say that academic subjects have withstood the test of time. They represent the accumulated wisdom of our ancestors down through the ages, and equip us with the knowledge and confidence to make sound judgments about any problems which may crop up. Secondly, they say that it is the duty of parents, not teachers, to prepare their children to deal with the practical affairs of life. The home, not the classroom, is the ideal place to learn about cookery and car machinery. Finally, schooldays devoted solely to instruction of practical matters would be dull indeed. Lessons in diverse subjects such as literature, science, geography and mathematics add spice to school life.

Those in favour of practical subjects such as car machinery and cookery opine that the subjects taught in schools tend to be too academic, and contribute little to preparing a young person for the real-life tasks he or she will have to perform after graduation. They say that academic subjects are rooted in the past, and are not useful for solving modern problems.

On balance, I believe that we need to provide young people the best possible chance of doing well at school. In traditional curriculum there should be a wide variety of subjects with a mix of academic and non-academic subjects. In this way a young person is formed with a rounded education. Car machinery, however, is not needed at school level. Non-academic subjects should include sports, cooking and music. I believe this is the best form of education. A young person should also learn things other than academic subjects.

To conclude, secondary school curriculum with only academic or only practical subjects is not good. It should be a combination of both for the holistic development of the student.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Why some people are in favour of purely academic subjects

- academic subjects have withstood the test of time
- equip us with the knowledge and confidence to make sound judgments
- it is the duty of parents, not teachers, to prepare their children to deal with the practical affairs of life.
- Only practical subjects would be dull and boring

Para 2: Why some people are in favour of practical subjects

- Academic subjects contribute little to preparing a young person for the real-life tasks he or she will have to perform after graduation.
- academic subjects are rooted in the past, and are not useful for solving modern problems.

Para 3: Own view

- should be a mix of academic and practical subjects

Students in schools should learn practical skills like car maintenance and managing a bank account in addition to academic subjects. Do you agree or disagree?

It is true that children learn academic subjects at school, but not many practical skills. However, I disagree that schools should teach skills like bank account management and car maintenance.

To begin with, there is a lot of importance of academic subjects like mathematics, science, languages etc. Academic subjects have withstood the test of time. They represent the accumulated wisdom of our ancestors down through the ages, and equip us with the knowledge and confidence to make sound judgments about any problems which may crop up. We live in a knowledge-based economy where independent thinking and problem solving are the most important skills. With timetables already full, schools do not have time to teach children anything else.

There are also non-academic subjects such as sports and music which are taught in schools. These are very important along with the academic subjects. They bring out the hidden talent and stimulate the creative ability of students. These subjects are as important as academic subjects as they act as stress-busters and give the students the much-needed relaxation.

On the other hand, bank account management is a 'life skill' that anyone can learn by simply opening a bank account. Most adults have no problem managing their finances without being taught accounting lessons at school. Other skills like car maintenance are not really necessary. Most people take their cars to a qualified mechanic. Therefore, these practical skills do not need to be added to the school curricula.

To conclude, schools are already doing a good job teaching the traditional academic subjects along with the non-academic subjects. If they start to teach practical skills, the study of important academic subjects will suffer.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: disagree

Para 1: Importance of academic subjects

Para 2: Importance of non-academic subjects such as music and sports

Para 3: Why practical skills such as car maintenance and opening a bank account not needed.

Conclusion

Some say that secondary school should spend less time on traditional subjects such as history and should spend more time on communication skill and business courses. To what extent do you agree or disagree with it?

At the secondary education level, students are taught a variety of subjects that are suppose to help guide them in their future career and personal choices. It is irrefutable that in today's global era communication skills and business courses are very important. However, I disagree that subjects such as history should be given lesser importance than these subjects in the secondary school curricula. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

On the one hand, there is no doubt that today we belong to a global era, in which there is cut-throat competition in every field. To be successful, the most important skills needed today are communication skills. The study of business courses is also invaluable today. Eventually, all students will encounter the world of business, whether they work in urban or rural areas. They must be prepared to engage in business activity with confidence and competence. Young people need to understand how business functions, the role it plays in our society, the opportunities it generates, the skills it requires, and the impact it can have on their own lives and on society, today and in the future.

On the other hand, the field of history is important for many educational, as well as practical, reasons. Through historical study, one can pursue a career in a wide array of fields. A student of history can go on to law school or delve into politics, because he will possess knowledge that will help him make invaluable choices that affect society. Although the practical side of it may not be noticeable to the student, it is true that every subject deals with history, and every inanimate object and every enjoyable pastime has a history behind it. For example, a student of medicine can't become a doctor without studying the history behind the profession, and most legends of Hollywood have studied the history of acting and film before obtaining their stardom in this field.

Regardless of whether or not a 17-year old will ever take another history course outside of high school, teaching history to that student will help him or her acquire the skills necessary to continue on with education at the college level. History will also make that student a better prepared citizen in society, capable of making informed choices about current issues and being able to follow up on events by using basic research techniques.

To conclude, although business and communication skills subjects are important in today's scenario, it is also important for people to have a basic understanding of what has driven, and what drives, the world in which we live in. That is perhaps why it has been rightly said that, "If you don't know history, then you don't know anything."

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: disagree that subjects such as history should be given lesser importance

Para 1: Importance of the study of business and communication skills

Para 2: Importance of the study of history

Para 3: More importance

Conclusion: Reiterate your opinion

Many students have to study subjects which they do not like. Some people think this is a complete waste of time. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

In today's competitive world, a broad knowledge is needed to succeed in any field. Therefore, I disagree that it is a waste of time if students study subjects which are not of their interest.

Let us first examine the reasons why some people hold the opinion that students should not have to study all the subjects and should be allowed to choose the subjects they want to study. They opine that in this case the students will probably be more enthusiastic about their study. In addition, if students are forced to study all subjects, they can easily lose interest in education. What is more, if all subjects are compulsory for studying, students will not have enough time to learn all of them properly therefore they will be constantly under a lot of pressure.

However, I believe all subjects are of great importance and for the holistic development of the students they need to study all subjects equally at school level. Later on, during admission to the colleges, students can select the subjects of their choice and can explore them further. At that age they are mature enough to decide their subjects for themselves. At school level the student may not know what his real interests are.

Furthermore, nowadays, the job market is very demanding and the recruiters select students who are skilled in various fields. Having the basic knowledge of varied subjects during school time definitely widens the horizons for the students. To add to it, it is a well known fact that most subjects are related to each other in some way or the other. For example, a basic knowledge of mathematics is needed to excel in computer languages. Finally, I believe that it is up to the teachers to develop interest of the students in any subject. For instance, during my school days, my history teacher was so good that a boring subject like history was the favourite subject of the whole class.

To conclude, students should learn all subjects at school level as they are not mature enough to know their real interests at school level and a broad knowledge is also needed for their holistic development.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: reasons why some people hold the opinion that students should not have to study all the subjects and should be allowed to choose the subjects they want to study.

- students will probably be more enthusiastic about their study
- students will not have enough time to learn all of them properly

Para 2: Why all subjects are important

- for the holistic development of the students
- At school level the student may not know what his real interests are.

Para 3: More reasons to study all subjects

- job market is very demanding and the recruiters select students who are skilled in various fields.
- most subjects are related to each other in some way or the other.

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

Some think the subject of music is not necessary in primary school, and other practical subjects like science should replace it. What is your opinion?

I disagree with the notion that music as a subject is not essential in elementary school and should be replaced by other practical subjects such as math and science. I firmly believe that music is a more potent instrument than any other for education and it is even more important than other subjects in the early years of life. Music uses both sides of the brain as a result of which the child's brain develops academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

The most important advantage of music in primary classes is that music trains the brain for higher forms of thinking. It was seen in a research that second graders who were given music lessons scored 27% higher in math than children who received no music lessons. This means that children who learn music in schools are better problem-solvers and are better at analysis and overall critical thinking. Because studying or playing music uses the same part of the brain that is used in mathematical thinking, music education can help promote better math students. Exposing children to music in the early and primary years increases listening and concentration skills also.

Secondly, Music is an art form. We are emotional beings and every child requires an artistic outlet. Music may be the child's vehicle of expression. Music helps the child to open up and improve his communication skills. It helps him to express his ideas and thoughts in a better manner. Young children can experience camaraderie and teamwork by participating in group music activities. Music education can open doors for children who can later adopt it as a hobby or even profession in later years. Involvement in a music group, chorus or band gives the young child a sense of importance and belonging.

Those against promoting music in primary schools say that children are already overburdened with so many subjects. They feel that children of today belong to an era of cut-throat competition and they should be well versed with practical subjects which they will need for a successful career in later years. They opine that those interested in music may take it as an optional subject in later years, but primary school children need not learn music. However, their reasoning does not hold much water.

To sum up, music is very important for children especially those in primary schools because it helps the brain develop fast and is needed for the holistic development of children.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: importance of music

Para 2: More importance of music

Para 3: opponents view

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

Many schools have made it compulsory for the students to wear a uniform. However it is hated by the students. How much freedom do you think students should have to choose their own clothes to school?

Schools uniforms are mandatory in most of the schools, but some students dislike wearing uniforms. I firmly believe that uniforms should be compulsory in schools and students should not be given the option of dressing according to their wishes.

To begin with, uniforms give a sense of identity to the school. It instills a sense of discipline in them. The students feel that they belong to the school. Every student of the school feels like part of a bigger group. Secondly, uniform is a social leveller. Where pupils are drawn from a wide cross-section of society a uniform finishes these differences and thus reduces the gap between the rich and the poor. The teachers also tend to treat all students equally when they are in the same uniform.

Another big advantage is that if students play truant and bunk school, they can be easily identified. Finally, the uniform provides security. For example, if some miscreants come in the school, they can be easily spotted from afar. Even on school excursions, it is easier for the teachers to manage if all students are in same uniform.

On the other hand, some students loathe wearing uniforms because they find them unattractive and old fashioned. They believe that they can express themselves better through their clothes and they want to show their individuality. Wearing a uniform created an opposite effect. They find it very boring to wear the same dress each and every day.

To sum up, school uniform should be retained in all circumstances. Students should not be given the liberty to wear clothes of their own choice. Uniforms can be modernized and changed according to circumstances but a uniform is a critical aspect of education.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: uniforms should be compulsory

Para 1: Advantages of uniforms

Para 2: More advantages of uniforms

Para 3: Why students dislike uniforms

Conclusion: reiterate opinion



Schools should teach children good behavior and introduce ideas of 'right' and 'wrong'. It should not only be left to parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Families and schools are the two institutions which impart moral education and virtuous qualities in children. I disagree that it is solely the onus of the schools to teach such things to children. I believe it should be a joint responsibility of both, schools as well as parents.

It is understandable why parents should be responsible for inculcating good habits in children. They are responsible for bringing their children into the world and it is their responsibility to teach them social values. First of all, they can act as role models and children are their copycats. Secondly, as children spend a huge amount of time with parents, they get more time to build up good behavioral pattern in children.

On the other hand, schools can play a pivotal role to mould a child's character. To begin with, peer group interaction at schools makes a child highly social and he learns a lot of what is right or wrong from his fellow students. Tender-hearted children do not accept wrong-doings. Furthermore, many competitions held at school teach a child to accept defeat and to appreciate success which makes him a well-behaved person later on. Finally, teachers are observed very intently by the students and inadvertently children learn a lot of social values from them. Teachers can also admonish children for wrong doings and pat their back for good gestures.

I believe that children are our future and they have to be groomed to be well behaved and respectable citizens of tomorrow. Therefore, both parents and schools should play their role in shaping the behaviour and teach them good manners and etiquettes.

To sum up, schools are the temples of learning and this learning should not be restricted to only academic learning. Social learning is as important as academic learning.

**Plan followed**

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Role of parents

Para 2: Role of schools

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

Many people think that zoos, which keep wild animals by man-made environment should no longer exist in 21st century. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

I agree that there is no place for zoos in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I feel that zoos are an unsuitable environment for animals, and therefore should be abolished. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Firstly, zoo animals are kept in very confined areas compared with their vast natural habitat. Due to this zoo animals develop unnatural habits like pacing back and forth or swaying from side to side. For example, polar bears are given about 10 metres of walking space, where as in their arctic home they roam for hundreds of kilometers. Similarly, lions and tigers are confined in cages where they lack exercise and stimulation. What is more, it is very common for visitors to tease and provoke caged animals. This also leads to unnatural behavior in animals.

Secondly, the breeding programmes taken up by zoos are not very successful. For instance, the 'Panda Breeding Programme' has been very costly and unsuccessful. Also, zoo life does not prepare animals for the challenges of life in the wild. They are provided good food in the zoos, but if left in the jungle, they may die of starvation because they cannot hunt for themselves.

Finally, the zoo is an unnatural environment that exposes animals to many dangers. Diseases often spread between species that would never live together naturally. For example, many Asian elephants have died in African zoos after catching herpes from African elephants.

To sum up, I would like to reiterate my opinion that zoos are unnatural habitats for the wild animals and there is no justification in caging these marvelous creatures of God. It is not true to say that zoos are educational or that they help to save endangered species. In reality they only teach us how wild animals behave when they are cramped in small spaces. Breeding programmes provide zoos with good publicity, but in fact most of them are failures. Finally, zoo animals are more at risk of dying from disease or injury than their wild counterparts. It is time we abolish these cruel institutions.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree – means that you are against zoos

Para 1: Reasons why zoos are not good

Para 2: more reasons

Para 3: more reasons

Conclusion:

Some people argue that the purpose of zoos is only to entertain people. What do you think? What are the other purposes of zoos?

It is irrefutable that zoos provide recreation to people. However, zoos have a lot of other advantages besides entertainment. This essay shall highlight these functions of zoos.

To begin with, the main advantage is the education that people receive when visiting a zoo. Someone has rightly said that zoo animals are ambassadors for their cousins in the wild. Zoos provide a rare and unique opportunity to peer into the wild without actually traveling to forests. Zoos contain a range of animals such as giraffes, elephants, lions and even large and venomous snakes. People receive firsthand knowledge of how animals behave and act. Most zoos also provide interactive shows with some of the animals during specific times throughout the week. Surrounding the exhibits, zoos usually have information describing the animal, its history and natural location.

Furthermore, learning about animals also brings empathy to many people. Zoos help to promote awareness by educating people on how to protect animals that face extinction. By doing so, researchers can receive funds to repopulate these animals. What is more, zoos often take an active approach in helping animal populations. For dwindling species, many zoos breed captive species in an attempt to increase the numbers. After raising sufficient numbers of the populations, the animals can then be released into the wild in an attempt to encourage population growth. Many animals have been tremendously helped this way, including the white tiger and panda bear.

Moreover, zoos help to attract tourists and thus boost the economy. People buy tickets to visit zoos and a number of people get employment in zoos. Workers are needed to look after the animals and provide them timely exercise and food. Finally, entertainment is also there when people visit zoos. Everyone enjoys looking at these marvelous creations of the almighty.

To summarise, zoos provide education, awareness and boost the economy in addition to providing entertainment.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: zoos have a lot of other advantages besides entertainment

Para1: main advantage is the education

Para 2: more advantages

- help to promote awareness by educating people on how to protect animals that face extinction
- For dwindling species, many zoos breed captive species in an attempt to increase the numbers.

Para 3: more advantages

- attract tourists and thus boost the economy
- employment
- entertainment

Conclusion:

Some people think spending a lot on birthdays and marriage celebrations is a waste of money but others think it is important to the young people and the society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

**Celebrations such as birthdays and marriages are an important part of everyone's life. However, it is matter of intense dispute whether spending a lot on such events is a waste of money or whether it is significant for the youth and society as a whole. This essay shall look into both sides of the argument before coming to a conclusion.**

There are many reasons why some people opine that having big weddings and birthdays is good for the youth and the society. They believe that such events are very special should be celebrated with great pomp and show. As it is the youth of today are forgetting their culture and tradition under the influence of the global culture and these days are opportunities to revive such traditions in the minds of the youth. Secondly, in the fast paced life of today, it is only on such occasions that friend and relatives take time off to be together. Therefore, to make these days special, people spend lavishly on them. They believe that spending on such events is good to revive the community spirit among people.

On the other hand, there are those who are against such frivolous spending. They say that such days can be celebrated in simple way with only a few relatives and friends. There is so much poverty in the world and rather than frittering away a lot of money on such events it is better to donate some to charity to make such days special and meaningful. To cite an example, our great celebrity, Amitabh Bacchan celebrated his daughter's and son's wedding very simply with only a few friends and relatives.

In my opinion, those who overspend on such days merely want to show their status in society. It is essential to celebrate such days. Celebrations bring a break from the routine and give us "milestones" for our life. Celebration allows us to get "back in touch" with our personal, spiritual, and cultural heritage, while we try to build memories for the next generation. Celebration reminds us that we belong to a larger community, be it a family, a nation, or anything in between. However, it is not necessary to make them very big. Only those many people should be invited who can be attended properly. Everyone should participate and have happy memories of such events in their minds forever.

To sum up, it can be said that celebrating such events is important for the youth and society but it is not necessary to overspend on them.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Balanced view as it is a discuss essay

Para 1: why some people opine that having big weddings and birthdays is good for the youth and the society

- such events are very special. youth of today are forgetting their culture and tradition under the influence of the global culture and these days are opportunities to revive such traditions in the minds of the youth
- in the fast paced life of today, it is only on such occasions that friend and relatives take time off to be together. Therefore, to make these days special, people spend lavishly on them.

Para 2: those who are against such frivolous spending

- There is so much poverty in the world and rather than frittering away a lot of money on such events it is better to donate some to charity to make such days special and meaningful

Para 3: My opinion. Simple is better. those who overspend on such days merely want to show their status in society. Give the importance of celebrations.

**Conclusion:**

Some people say that money can make life easier and more comfortable. But others say that having a lot of money can bring some problems. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of having a lot of money?

It is irrefutable that money can bring ease and comfort in a person's life. However, the negative side of having too much money cannot be overlooked. This essay shall look into the advantages and disadvantages of having too much money.

It is easy to see how money can enrich our lives. The world runs on money. The basic amenities of life such as food clothing and shelter can be got only with money. You can trade money for almost anything. Having 'too much' money is also very helpful. Money is very powerful for getting people to do jobs. For example, if you want somebody to mow your lawn, you do not threaten them or try to talk them into it. You offer them some money and they mow your lawn. Moreover, if you have a lot of money, people value your opinion on things. In this respect, it can be said that money is power. Without money the world would grind to a halt.

On the other hand, there are many disadvantages of having a lot of money. To begin with, the richer you are the more taxes you have to pay. You will also have to keep track of what you have. You may have to pay people to keep accounts of all of your holdings. Money may become an obsession; it can alter your perception of life; you may stop trusting even your true friends. In this way, it can alter your social behaviour. Too much money won't let you see every day's little pleasures.

It can be said that the excess of money is as bad as the lack of money. The poor person is certainly not happy, nor can happiness be seen in a very rich person. Happiness is in contentment. There are many things which money can't do. For example, money can buy you a pretty good dog, but it cannot buy the wag of his tail. Money can buy books, but not knowledge; money can buy medicines, but not health and money can buy a bed but not sleep.

To conclude, definitely money is needed for everything in life. However, excess of money has its downside also.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Balanced approach as it is a discuss essay

Para 1: Advantages of having money and too much money

Para 2: Disadvantages of too much money

Para 3: Comparison of advantages and disadvantages of too much money. the excess of money is as bad as the lack of money

Conclusion: Balanced conclusion

Many people think having enough money brings happiness but others think too much money can bring problems. Do you agree or disagree?

(Note: This essay is very similar to the previous essay but it is in the agree/disagree format.)

I definitely agree with both halves of the statement. It is irrefutable that enough money brings happiness and it is also true that excess of money has its own drawbacks. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

It is easy to see how money can enrich our lives. The world runs on money. The basic amenities of life such as food clothing and shelter can be got only with money. You can trade money for almost anything. With money one can buy all comforts and luxuries of life. One can study in the best schools and colleges and can also enjoy the best health services. Money is needed to enjoy holidays with family and with money one can bring smiles on the lips of one's nears and dears.

On the other hand, there are many disadvantages of having a lot of money. To begin with, the richer you are the more taxes you have to pay. You will also have to keep track of what you have. You may have to pay people to keep accounts of all of your holdings. Money may become an obsession; it can alter your perception of life; you may stop trusting even your true friends. In this way, it can alter your social behaviour. Too much money won't let you see every day's little pleasures.

It can be said that the excess of money is as bad as the lack of money. The poor person is certainly not happy, nor can happiness be seen in a very rich person. Happiness is in contentment. There are many things which money can't do. For example, money can buy you a pretty good dog, but it cannot buy the wag of his tail. Money can buy books, but not knowledge; money can buy medicines, but not health and money can buy a bed but not sleep.

To conclude, definitely money is needed for everything in life. However, excess of money has its downside. Therefore, one should be satisfied with just enough. However, how much is 'enough' is a very difficult question to answer.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree with both halves of the statement

Para 1: Advantages of having money and too much money

- The basic amenities of life such as food clothing and shelter can be got only with money
- With money one can buy all comforts and luxuries of life
- One can study in the best schools and colleges and can also enjoy the best health services.
- Money is needed to enjoy holidays with family and with money one can bring smiles on the lips of one's nears and dears.

Para 2: Disadvantages of too much money

- you have to pay more taxes
- You will also have to keep track of what you have
- it can alter your perception of life
- Too much money won't let you see every day's little pleasures.

Para 3: Comparison of advantages and disadvantages of too much money. The excess of money is as bad as the lack of money

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

Today in many countries, people hold bigger and more expensive weddings than before. Is it a positive or negative development?

**Marriage is perhaps the biggest day of one's life. No wonder, today in many nations people have started spend lavishly on weddings. In my opinion it is a negative development. I firmly believe that it is not necessary to overspend on these days to make them memorable and enjoyable.**

It would be worthwhile to examine why some people have bigger weddings nowadays. They believe that such events are very special should be celebrated with great pomp and show. As it is the youth of today are forgetting their culture and tradition under the influence of the global culture and these days are opportunities to revive such traditions in the minds of the youth. Secondly, in the fast paced life of today, it is only on such occasions that friend and relatives take time off to be together. Therefore, to make these days special, people spend lavishly on them. They believe that spending on such events is good to revive the community spirit among people.

In my opinion, those who overspend on such days merely want to show their status in society. It is essential to celebrate such days, but, it is not necessary to make them very big. Only those many people should be invited who can be attended properly. Everyone should participate and have happy memories of such events in their minds forever. There is so much poverty in the world and rather than frittering away a lot of money on such events it is better to donate some to charity to make such days special and meaningful. To cite an example, our great celebrity, Amitabh Bacchan celebrated his daughter's and son's wedding very simply with only a few friends and relatives. More and more people should follow his example and donate that saved money to charity.

Another reason which goes against overspending on such events is that many a time people go into debt in order to keep up with their affluent friends and relatives. This one day may give them stress for many days or even months later on. What is more, if we want to be rid of dowry system and female foeticide then it is very essential that we keep these celebrations simple and easy on our pockets so that there is no stress on anyone.

To sum up, it can be said that celebrating weddings is necessary as these days are important in our lives, but it is not necessary to overspend on them.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Overspending on weddings is a negative development

Para 1: why some people opine that having big weddings and birthdays is good for the youth and the society

- such events are very special. youth of today are forgetting their culture and tradition under the influence of the global culture and these days are opportunities to revive such traditions in the minds of the youth
- in the fast paced life of today, it is only on such occasions that friend and relatives take time off to be together. Therefore, to make these days special, people spend lavishly on them.

Para 2: Why overspending is bad

- There is so much poverty in the world and rather than frittering away a lot of money on such events it is better to donate some to charity to make such days special and meaningful
- those who overspend on such days merely want to show their status in society.

Para 3: More reasons

- such events is that many a time people go into debt in order to keep up with their affluent friends and relatives
- if we want to be rid of dowry system and female foeticide then it is very essential that we keep these celebrations simple and easy on our pockets so that there is no stress on anyone.

**Conclusion:**

The level of noise around us is constantly increasing, and is affecting the quality of our lives. What cause the noise? What should be done about it?

Displeasing sound that interrupts the balance of human or animal life is known as “Noise pollution.” It has harmful effects on the physiological and psychological health of human beings. It can cause heart problems, hearing problems, sleeplessness and mental health problems. This essay shall discuss the causes and possible solutions to reduce noise problems.

There are a plethora of causes of noise pollution. One of the major sources of noise pollution is the traffic noise. Transportation systems create noise pollution. The number of vehicles on the road is increasing day by day and hence the sound produced by them is no less than a nuisance and is chiefly responsible for the noise pollution. To add to it, industrial noise also leads to noise pollution. Machinery and motors used in the industries create a lot of noise.

Furthermore, the construction of buildings, highways and city streets also cause a lot of noise and hence lead to noise pollution. People living beside railway stations also have to put up with a lot of noise from engines, horns and whistles. Other causes are the loudspeakers usually used in marriages, social and religious functions. The noise is just jarring and harmful for the ears. It can cause sleep disruption. It can also cause deafening.

Because of the harmful effects, it becomes quite necessary to curb noise pollution and take measures and steps to control noise pollution. Roadside plantations are one of the great solutions to help in reducing noise pollution. Vegetation buffer zones must be created in different parts of the city. Changing the design and operation of machines like sound proof cabins and sound-absorbing materials can greatly help in reducing noise pollution. Residential buildings should be as far as possible from noise source. To block unwanted noise from outside soundproof doors and windows can be installed. The major cause of noise pollution in public areas is loudspeaker. For the welfare of the people it should be banned at any cost. Those who violate and play loudspeakers in crowded areas and public places strict laws should be imposed against them.

To conclude, there are various sources of noise pollution but many steps can be taken to reduce it.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Problem solution essay intro.

Para 1: Causes

- Traffic
- Machinery and motors used in the industries

Para 2: More causes

- the construction of buildings, highways and city streets
- noise from engines, horns and whistles
- loudspeakers usually used in marriages, social and religious functions.

Para 3: Solutions

- Roadside plantations
- Vegetation buffer zones
- Changing the design and operation of machines like sound proof cabins and sound-absorbing materials
- Residential buildings should be as far as possible from noise source
- soundproof doors and windows can be installed
- loudspeaker should be banned

Conclusion:



In natural scenic spots, such as lakes, mountains and beaches there is much litter or rubbish. Why do people do that? How to deal with it?

These days the pollution produced by tourists has threatened the natural environment of some tourist attractions, making it a big problem to be addressed before those places are completely damaged. This essay shall try to highlight some reasons why people litter these places and also suggest some ways forward.

The most important reason why people litter these tourist places is that they have little awareness of environmental conservation. People think that their one plastic bottle or one wrapper of chips does not matter. What they don't realize is that if each tourist has the same thought then very soon these natural scenic spots would turn into mountains of such litter. People also don't know that this rubbish is mostly of non-biodegradable material and will stay like that for ever.

Another reason why people don't care is that they think it is not their responsibility. They think the onus of keeping these places clean rests on the authorities. They have to realize that the environment is everyone's responsibility. Finally, the environmental protection facilities are not enough in many tourist attractions. People would not litter these places if trashcans were there at regular intervals.

The first step towards sustainable tourism would be that the governments and tourist companies could educate the tourists about their responsibilities. Tourists should be made aware through the media and tour operators about responsible tourism. They should be made to realise that their careless attitude could kill future tourism and nothing would be left for the gen-next. Additionally, the authorities should have proper facilities at such places and if facilities are not enough according to the number of tourists then the number of tourists should be limited.

To conclude, it can be said that irresponsible tourism has led to damage of the natural environment and at many places the tourist places have been so much littered that they have ceased being a tourist attraction any more. The responsibility of saving these spots rests on both – the tourists and the government. One should remember the saying, "A good tourist is one who leaves behind nothing but footprints and takes away nothing but photographs."

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall try to highlight some reasons why people litter these places and also suggest some ways forward

Para 1: they have little awareness of environmental conservation

Para 2: they think it is not their responsibility  
the environmental protection facilities are not enough

Para 3: Solutions

- governments and tourist companies could educate the tourists about their responsibilities
- the authorities should have proper facilities at such places and if facilities are not enough according to the number of tourists then the number of tourists should be limited

Conclusion: The responsibility of saving these spots rests on both – the tourists and the government

Some people believe that taxing companies which cause it is the best way to reduce industrial pollution while some suggest that there are several other ways to solve this trouble. Discuss both the views and give your opinion.

Some individuals are of the opinion that industries which cause pollution should be taxed heavily so as to reduce pollution, whereas others opine that pollution should be controlled by other means. This essay intends to discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

Those who are in favour of taxing companies say so because it is these companies which cause pollution and they should pay for cleaning it up. The ordinary people should not have to pay for it through taxes. Obviously, if government pays for it, it would be through the common man's pocket.

On the other hand, other methods to deal with the situation would be better. This is because it would be very difficult to judge which industries are causing how much pollution. They would all shrug off their shoulders and that would make matters worse. Secondly, these companies would claim that they are already paying a lot of taxes and so it becomes the governments' responsibility.

Other methods should be used to tackle this problem. To begin with, the government can make it mandatory for these industries to set up effluent-treatment plants. Government can also give them subsidies for such projects. This would ensure that these effluents don't contaminate the underground water. These industries should also be encouraged for tree plantation. They should have green belt all around them so that the trees absorb all the carbon dioxide liberated.

To conclude, taxing the industries would not work as a good solution for reducing pollution and other methods should be looked into.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: advantages of taxing the companies

Para 2: Why, taxing companies would not work-out.

Para 3: Other methods

Conclusion:

People generally know that the environment is important. However, most individuals still don't take responsibility to protect the environment. Why is this? What should be done to encourage people to protect the environment?

It is irrefutable that environmental damage is occurring at a very fast pace and people know that it is a global priority today to save the environment. However, when it comes to doing something, no one steps forward. This essay intends to delve into the causes of this phenomenon and suggest simple measures to encourage people to think about the environment.

There are many reasons behind the indifferent attitude of people. The main reason is that we people don't know that we are also the cause of environmental damage. We don't realize that global warming is the result of billions of decisions. We are cutting down trees for our needs; we are using too many luxuries in the home; we are driving too many cars and we are wasting resources like fresh water. If only awareness is brought about these things then many people would take a step forward in this direction.

People are also not doing anything because they think that it is a global problem and only government action can solve it. What has to be made clear is that small measures taken at the individual level will take mammoth dimensions when mounted up. For example, in a country like India with a population of more than one billion, if each person plants a tree and nurtures it for the first few months, the result would be unimaginable. We can all take simple steps like recycling things such as newspapers, plastics and glass. We could also walk for short distances instead of using our vehicles and for long distances we could use the public transport.

Another reason why people do little about the environment is that people have become very busy in their pursuit of wealth and fame that they have no time to think about the environment. What they don't realize that if nothing is done today, it might be too late tomorrow. The rate at which global warming is occurring would soon transform the Earth into a boiling pot and it would be un-inhabitable for us one day.

Summing up, the onus of saving the environment is not just on the shoulders of the governments and big industries. We all must come forward and do our bit to save the environment before it is too late. It has rightly been said –“little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the mighty ocean and the vast land”

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: I intend to delve into the causes of this phenomenon and suggest simple measures which can be taken at the individual level.

Para 1: People don't do anything because they don't realize that they are the cause of this damage

Para 2: People don't do anything because they think it is a big problem and can only be tackled by the government

Para 3: People don't do anything because they have no time

Conclusion:

Nowadays, more and more building have been rebuilt or redesigned into a new modern form. What are the advantages and disadvantages of it?

Modernization is the process by which cities are being transformed under the impact of the scientific and technological revolution. That is why most of the buildings are being modernized. As everything has its pros and cons, similarly modernization also has its good and bad points which I shall discuss in this essay.

On the one hand, modernization of cities is very beneficial to meet the needs of the growing population. Sky-scrapers are part of modern cities and they are needed today as land is becoming scarce. These modern buildings reduce the need of deforestation which is a big cause of concern today. Moreover, some old buildings are very old and need demolition. Everything has a life and if these are not demolished or renovated, these may crumble anytime and cause threat to life.

Secondly, modern materials are more practical. Now we use concrete and steel instead of stone, timber or brick. Because of these things buildings can be built comparatively quickly using prefabricated materials. They do not use local materials, such as stone, timber or brick, which used to give character to those buildings. Finally, changes are taking place in climate and energy sources are depleting fast. So we need energy efficient houses. Modern buildings use double glass front walls and POP( Plaster of Paris) ceilings which lessen the energy requirements.

On the other hand, in the process of modernizing, most of the city administrators just copy the architecture of other cities from the developed world and this has resulted in cloning of cities. Very naturally, to rebuild any city with modernization while maintaining its historical and cultural uniqueness is a difficult task that demands know-how in many areas. Copying is relatively simple and fast. Most of the cities now look similar and this has led to a loss of architectural diversity. Tourism is also affected by the loss of historical buildings.

To sum up, I pen down saying that, rebuilding and revamping old buildings has its pros and cons but definitely the merits outweigh the demerits.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: As everything has its pros and cons, similarly modernization also has its good and bad points which I shall discuss in this essay

Para 1: Advantages

- to meet the needs of the growing population.- skyscrapers
- reduce the need of deforestation
- if these are not demolished or renovated, these may crumble anytime and cause threat to life

Para 2: more advantages

- modern materials are more practical - prefabricated materials
- we need energy efficient houses – today we build energy efficient homes

Para 3: Disadvantages

- Most of the cities now look similar and this has led to a loss of architectural diversity.
- Tourism is also affected by the loss of historical buildings

Conclusion

Many old cities around the world are going through a major process of modernization. What are the advantages and disadvantages of modernization?

Modernization is the process by which cities are being transformed under the impact of the scientific and technological revolution. Modernization is usually associated with urban and industrial development. Cities are growing as economic and cultural centers, and new technologies have transformed almost every aspect of life. As everything has its pros and cons, similarly modernization also has its good and bad points which I shall discuss in this essay.

On the one hand modernization of cities is very beneficial to meet the needs of the growing population. Sky-scrapers are part of modern cities and they are needed today as land is becoming scarce. Modern architecture uses pre-fabricated material instead of wood for the doors and windows, which is also the need of the day. Modern buildings are also being made to be energy-efficient. For example, walls are being insulated so that lesser air-conditioning is needed. This is also a big plus point as we are all facing energy crises today.

Furthermore, road systems are being expanded to meet the needs of the growing number of vehicles. The benefits of these changes are becoming obvious as traffic jams are becoming things of the past in these places. Finally, as globalization is opening doors for the developing countries to expand their trade, modernization is becoming mandatory to attract foreign investments in these cities. It goes without doubt that these changes are bringing tangible benefits to these cities. For instance, the various multinational companies have opened in these cities and these are providing employment to many.

On the other hand, in the process of modernizing, most of the city administrators just copied the architecture of other cities from the developed world and this resulted in cloning of cities. Very naturally, to rebuild any city with modernization while maintaining its historical and cultural uniqueness is a difficult task that demands know-how in many areas. Copying is relatively simple and fast. Most of the cities now look similar and this has led to a loss of architectural diversity.

Summing up, modernizing cities is the need of the time and it has obviously much more advantages than disadvantages. However, care should be taken, as far as possible, to preserve some of the historic and cultural uniqueness of these cities.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: As everything has its pros and cons, similarly modernization also has its good and bad points which I shall discuss in this essay

Para 1: Advantages

- to meet the needs of the growing population.- skyscrapers
- modern materials are more practical - prefabricated materials
- we need energy efficient houses – today we build energy efficient homes

Para 2: more advantages

- road systems are being expanded to meet the needs of the growing number of vehicles
- modernization is becoming mandatory to attract foreign investments in these cities - MNCs

Para 3: Disadvantages

- Most of the cities now look similar and this has led to a loss of architectural diversity.

Conclusion

Historical buildings are destroyed for housing schemes in most of the cities these days? Discuss and give your opinion. (18<sup>th</sup> Feb Essay India)

Modernization of cities is the need of the hour as a result of which many historic buildings are being destroyed. This situation has both pros and cons which I shall discuss in this essay.

On the one hand, demolition of these old historic buildings is very beneficial to meet the needs of the growing population. Sky-scrapers are part of modern cities and they are needed today as land is becoming scarce. Some old historic buildings are serving no purpose today. They are neither safe to live in nor are attracting tourists. On top of that they occupy a lot of space. Everything has a life and if these are not demolished or renovated, these may crumble anytime and cause threat to life.

Furthermore, road systems are being expanded to meet the needs of the growing number of vehicles. Many old buildings come in the way of these road systems. That is why these buildings need to be destroyed. The benefits of these changes are becoming obvious as traffic jams are becoming things of the past in these places.

On the other hand, there are some old buildings which give a unique identity to a place and with a little maintenance can be used effectively even today. For example, the Sainik School of Kapurthala was the home the maharaja of Kapurthala, Jagatjit Singh. It is a magnificent piece of architecture and is now serving a very good purpose. There are many other such buildings which house important government offices or have been converted to hotels for tourists. The Umedh Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, Rajasthan has been converted into a hotel and is a good source of revenue for the government. We would be losing a lot of our historical and cultural background if we demolish such buildings.

To put it in a nutshell, I pen down saying that demolishing old buildings for modernization is definitely advantageous. However, if the historic building is a tourist attraction or is giving a unique identity to a place, it should definitely be preserved. If a building is occupying a lot of space and is unfit to live in, then it should be demolished.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This situation has both pros and cons which I shall discuss in this essay.

Para 1: Advantages

- demolition of these old historic buildings is very beneficial to meet the needs of the growing population
- Everything has a life and if these are not demolished or renovated, these may crumble anytime and cause threat to life.

Para 2: road systems are being expanded to meet the needs of the growing number of vehicles. Many old buildings come in the way of these road systems

Para 3: Disadvantages

- some old buildings which give a unique identity to a place and with a little maintenance can be used effectively even today – give examples
- We would be losing a lot of our historical and cultural background if we demolish such buildings

Conclusion:

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in a house and living in an apartment and give your opinion as to which is better.

Many people nowadays face a difficult decision when they buy their own home. The question is whether they should buy a house or an apartment. This essay shall discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both options before forming an opinion.

Perhaps the major advantage of living in a house is the issue of privacy. Typically, there is more opportunity for peace and quiet, if you live in a house. This is particularly the case if it is a detached house. Other significant advantages are that houses are generally more spacious and on the whole have gardens. This is especially important if there is a family so that the children can have a safe environment to play in.

There are, of course, negative aspects to living in houses. The greatest of these is that they tend to be more expensive to purchase and to maintain. Indeed, a large majority of people choose to live in apartments because they cannot afford the mortgage to buy a house. Another possible problem is that there are fewer houses in cities than the countryside. So the facilities of urban life may be far away.

On the other hand, in an apartment there is always somebody near to help you in an emergency or watch your flat when you are away. As well as this, flats have very low maintenance costs. For example, with only a balcony, there are no bushes to trim, no lawn to mow and no leaves to rake. Finally, flats are usually located closer to city centre and so public transport is easy to get.

The downside of apartment life is that the neighbours may be noisy and bothersome. This can be extremely unpleasant, particularly if your sleep is constantly interrupted. Also, living in a neighbourhood crowded with blocks of flats means that parking is limited and finding a space for your car could take a considerable amount of your time.

To conclude, it can be seen that there are probably an equal number of pros and cons to making either choice. Ultimately, whether you decide to live in a house or a flat depends on a person's family and financial circumstances.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: advantages of living in a house

- privacy
- more spacious

Para 2: disadvantages of living in a house

- more expensive to purchase and to maintain
- usually away from city centres

Para 3: advantages of apartments

- always somebody near to help you in an emergency or watch your flat when you are away
- flats have very low maintenance costs
- transportation is nearby

Para 4: disadvantages of apartments

- neighbours may be noisy and bothersome
- parking is limited

Conclusion: Matter of individual taste

Many people think living in high-rise apartment blocks makes people feel lonely and unhappy, while others argue it has advantages. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

The number of high rise buildings has grown many-fold in the past few years. This essay shall discuss the advantages and disadvantages of high-rise apartments'

There are many advantages of living in high-rise apartment buildings. The main advantage is that everything that you need is just a stone's throw away. This is because high-rise apartments or condominiums tend to be either very close to or right in the middle of downtown. Some apartment buildings may be located near beautiful, natural surroundings such as parks, gardens, and white-sand beaches. A person can relax and escape from the stresses and hassles of city living by going up the top floor and marvel at the cityscape with the wonderful perspective of everything around you.

Furthermore, there are shared amenities in the building such as swimming pools, recreation centers and gyms which one can enjoy. You can actually socialize with the other families, get to know them, and create a better sense of community also. When neighbors get to know one another, they tend to look out for one another, and this generates a greater sense of safety and security, and this only adds to the advantages of high-rise living.

Along with certain living advantages, there are also plenty of disadvantages of such skyscrapers. When it comes to high rises, the balcony is a possible safety hazard because of a growing number of fatalities associated with suicide and accidental falls. What is more, high-rise fires are the worst nightmare for people living in tall apartment buildings because of the cramped conditions when doing an evacuation out of one's apartment space. Another issue about high-rise apartment buildings is the fact that everything is compact and you don't have a lawn and a spacious yard where you can play with your kids. Finally, there are many people living in such buildings and so residents do not question the presence of strangers. Therefore, security can be a big problem.

To sum up, there are both advantages and disadvantages of high rise apartments. However, feeling lonely is not one of them. Whether to live or not to live in a high-rise apartment is a matter of personal choice.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of high-rise apartments

- everything that you need is just a stone's throw away
- person can relax and escape from the stresses and hassles of city living by going up the top floor and marvel at the cityscape

Para 2: More advantages

- there are shared amenities in the building
- You can actually socialize with the other families

Para 3: Disadvantages

- the balcony is a possible safety hazard because of a growing number of fatalities
- high-rise fires are the worst nightmare for people living in tall apartment buildings
- everything is compact and you don't have a lawn and a spacious yard
- there are many people living in such buildings and so residents do not question the presence of strangers

Conclusion:



Too many old historic buildings are in danger and destroyed in many countries. What are the main reasons? How to protect them?

Modernization of cities is the need of the hour as a result of which many historic buildings are being destroyed. This essay shall highlight the reasons for this phenomenon and also suggest ways to protect these buildings.

The main reason for the demolition of these old historic buildings is to meet the needs of the growing population. Sky-scrapers are part of modern cities and they are needed today as land is becoming scarce. Some old historic buildings are serving no purpose today. They are neither safe to live in nor are attracting tourists. On top of that they occupy a lot of space. Everything has a life and if these are not demolished or renovated, these may crumble anytime and cause threat to life.

Furthermore, road systems are being expanded to meet the needs of the growing number of vehicles. Many old buildings come in the way of these road systems. That is why these buildings need to be destroyed. The benefits of these changes are becoming obvious as traffic jams are becoming things of the past in these places.

Some steps can be taken to preserve these buildings. There are some old buildings which give a unique identity to a place and with a little maintenance can be used effectively even today. For example, the Sainik School of Kapurthala was the home the maharaja of Kapurthala, Jagatjit Singh. It is a magnificent piece of architecture and is now serving a very good purpose. There are many other such buildings which house important government offices or have been converted to hotels for tourists. The Umedh Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, Rajasthan has been converted into a hotel and is a good source of revenue for the government. Therefore, if we renovate these buildings and make them utilitarian, then we can preserve them.

To conclude, demolishing old buildings for modernization is definitely advantageous. However, if the historic building is a tourist attraction, is giving a unique identity to a place, it should definitely be preserved.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall highlight the reasons for this phenomenon and also suggest ways to protect these buildings

Para 1: Reasons

- demolition of these old historic buildings is very beneficial to meet the needs of the growing population
- Everything has a life and if these are not demolished or renovated, these may crumble anytime and cause threat to life.

Para 2: More reason

- road systems are being expanded to meet the needs of the growing number of vehicles. Many old buildings come in the way of these road systems

Para 3: Steps to preserve

- some old buildings which give a unique identity to a place and with a little maintenance can be used effectively even today – give examples
- renovate these buildings and make them utilitarian

Conclusion:

Nowadays, more and more people don't wear their national clothes, and the clothes look almost the same all over the world. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

Traditional costume, both national and regional, is universally recognised as an integral element of every single culture. Despite its importance to a culture and ethnicity, it is now less frequently worn by people because nowadays western formal and informal clothes are in vogue. I believe this is a positive development. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

On the positive side, when people wear similar clothes all over the world, they feel similar. It is well known that today we don't belong to a big planet Earth, we are part of a small global village. This has led to merging of cultures and people tend to accept each other better if they look similar. Secondly, this global wear is very comfortable. For example, the traditional Indian sari is not easy to carry at times and so the work efficiency goes down. In the fast paced life of today, time is money and that is why jeans and T-shirts have gained popularity.

Furthermore, this global clothing has gained popularity because it is much cheaper in the long run. For instance, two pairs of jeans with different tops can last the whole year where as different sari or suit is required quite often. What is more, traditional costumes might not suit every circumstance. For example, exercise clothes are needed when people participate in physical exercise- and play sports. Western-style suits are used more broadly on formal occasions where people of different cultural backgrounds gather for serious issues, such as business. Dressing in a standard manner is a demonstration of respect, the key to mutual trust.

Opponents of this view say that when people stop wearing their traditional clothes, they lose touch with their culture and tradition; they lose their ethnic identity. What is more, this world is beautiful because of its diversity. If everyone looks the same, we also lose our diversity. However, I still feel that there are some deep-rooted values of our culture which cannot be lost even if we all look the same.

To summarise, people are wearing the same clothes all over the world because these clothes are convenient, cheaper and people feel the need to belong to this global village of today. If these clothes did not have these advantages, people would not have accepted them.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: It is a positive development

Para 1: Why it is a positive development

- People want to feel similar in today's global village
- Convenient

Para 2: More reasons

- Cheaper
- Might not suit every circumstance

Para 3: opponents view and then refute it

Conclusion: reiterate your opinion

In the past people wore their traditional clothes and followed their culture. These days most people wear similar clothes and therefore look very similar to one another. Do you think this is a positive or a negative development?

Today, we do not belong to a big planet Earth; we belong to a small global village. In this shrunken world, the cultures have also come closer and as a result people all over the world are dressing up in similar clothes and looking similar. This is largely a positive development.

On the positive side, people have become more tolerant of each other and are accepting each other in a much better way. They have a feeling that they are all connected even though there are different religions and ways of life. For example, when the tsunami disaster occurred, the whole world felt the devastation. People from all over the world offered their support and sent money to help victims. Instead of saying that different parts of the world should deal with their own problems, everyone made other countries problems their own. This shared belief of safety and happiness brought people together for comfort and relief. Every culture can agree on such beliefs. What is more, the idea that the world is shrinking its' differences and uniting, makes us stronger and more capable to accomplish anything.

Another positive aspect of this culture exchange is that all over the world people are accepting the good points of each other's culture and this also makes them more aware of the good points of their own culture. For example, the western clothing, jeans and T-shirts, is very comfortable and easy to manage. Therefore, people all over the world have adopted it. In the same way, we can see the inclination of many foreigners towards our cultural values and living style. Our holy books, 'Geeta' and 'Ramayana' have gone global. Yoga and meditation have gained worldwide popularity. Our Indian classical dances are being taught in western countries and such classes are not monopolized by the Indian students; they have a diversity of students from all over the world.

On the negative side, some people feel that it is leading to a loss of global diversity and people are forgetting their own cultural and traditional values. This seems true on the face value, but I still feel that there are some deep rooted cultural differences which can never be forgotten. Wearing similar clothes and accepting other people's cultures can never make anyone completely aloof from one's own culture.

To conclude, the worldwide similarity among people is largely a positive trend.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: It is a positive development

Para 1: Why it is a positive development

- people have become more tolerant of each other

Para 2: More reasons

- people are accepting the good points of each other's culture and this also makes them more aware of the good points of their own culture.

Para 3: opponents view and then refute it

Conclusion: reiterate your opinion

Advertising influences people to buy things such as clothes and shoes. What are the problems caused by that? What solutions can be given?

It is irrefutable that advertising promotes consumerism. In this essay I intend to explore the problems caused by excessive consumerism and suggest some ways forward.

To begin with, advertisements can cause people to be dissatisfied with what they already have and make them want more. Being exposed again and again to products which one cannot afford leads to frustration and dissatisfaction. Furthermore, not all parents are in a position to afford the goods which the children see advertised and want to possess. This often leads to feeling of inadequacy among the less well off.

In addition to this advertisements create materialism. It is a fact that people are prepared to work longer hours and even turn to crime to buy these material goods. Last but not least, excessive consumerism leads to a throw-away culture which is detrimental to the environment.

The solutions are not simple. Advertisements cannot be banned because they are a source of valuable revenue which is used for the benefit of majority. The onus is on the people not to get carried away and buy only what they actually need. The government can, however, ban unnecessary packaging. Furthermore, educating people is a crucial tool against excessive consumerism. People could be made to understand how they are exploited by the adverts. It is also vital to teach our children financial management right from the early years. This way there will be less chance for them to be swayed by the advertisements.

To sum up, advertising does promote consumerism but people could be educated about the ill effects of excessive consumerism.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: In this essay I intend to explore the problems caused by excessive consumerism and suggest some ways forward.

Para 1: advertisements can cause people to be dissatisfied with what they already have and make them want more - feeling of inadequacy – things are not affordable by all

Para 2: advertisements create materialism - work longer hours and even turn to crime to buy – also leads to a throw-away culture

Para 3: solutions

Conclusion: advertising does promote consumerism but people could be educated about the ill effects of excessive consumerism

Nowadays, some people believe advertising is useful and informative. Others say it gives false information about the products and increase the price of goods. What is your opinion?

Advertising in modern society is ubiquitous - on the radio, TV, the internet and in our letterboxes. While some advertisements make false claims, the positive influence of advertising is much more than the negative. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

It is true that advertising provides us with information on new products. If it were not for electronic and print advertising, many products would not be bought. In this way, advertising provides an important service to manufacturers and some consumers. Additionally, it fuels the advertising industry, creating jobs for thousands of people. In this respect it has the backbone of many economies of the world.

Furthermore, advertisements touch social issues. For example, when Amitabh Bachhan tells people to bring their children for pulse polio immunization, people listen. Then there are ads against female foeticide which are very informative. Advertisements also teach a lot about the country from where the ads come. This is because through satellite TV we can see ads from all over the world. When we see a Japanese advert of a lady in a kimono, we come to know about the clothes of Japan.

However, Adverts also have a downside. There are many advertisements which make many false claims about their products. For example, I recently bought a floor cleaner which claimed to remove rust stains from floor effortlessly but when I used it in my kitchen, the rust stains did not go at all. It also goes without saying that when businesses hire celebs to endorse their products then definitely they have to pay them exorbitant amounts of money and all this increases the cost of the product. However, the onus is on the people to take everything what the ads say with a pinch of salt and discuss about the product with friends and relatives before actually buying it.

On balance, I believe that as every rose is accompanied by thorns, ads too have their demerits. Overall, the adverts have many more advantages than disadvantages.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: While some advertisements make false claims, the positive influence of advertising is much more than the negative

Para 1: - advertising provides us with information on new products

- it fuels the advertising industry, creating jobs for thousands of people

Para 2: advertisements touch social issues.

- Advertisements also teach a lot about the country from where the ads come.

Para 3: advertisements also have negative points

- advertisements which make many false claims
- all this increases the cost of the product

Conclusion: reiterate your opinion

Advertisements for things like toys and food have effects on children and their families. Many people think this is negative. Do you agree or disagree?

Advertising is a catalyst for sales and therefore it targets all divisions of the society including the very young. However, I disagree that all these effects are negative. I believe that ads also have a lot of positive effects on children and their families. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Admittedly, in sensitive areas such as the toy industry, excess advertisement can be detrimental for the children and their families. This is because children under a certain age lack abilities to make wise judgment as to what they really want. They are attracted by colourful pictures on advertisement and swayed by misleading information. So they pester their parents to buy those things and this can upset the budget of many families.

Furthermore, the advertisements of fast foods are also bad for children. Children cannot understand that the slim-trim models advertising Mac Donald's burgers hardly ever eat such foods themselves. They are attracted to fast foods and these are very detrimental for their health. Today, most countries are facing the problem of childhood obesity and this indicates the negative ramifications of targeted advertising on children.

On the other hand, advertisements also provide beneficial information. For example, the advert of Colgate toothpaste which tells that we should brush our teeth twice daily is good for children. Then there are ads about health drinks such as Complan and Bournvita which are good for children. Furthermore, advertisement also conveys positive attitudes towards life. For instance, the advertising slogan of Nike—"impossible is nothing" is very motivating.

To conclude, it could be said that, it is true that advertisements affect children in negative ways but at the same time there are many positive effects also. Advertisement is indispensable in this highly competitive market and produces much more positive effects than negative ones to the society as a whole.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: I disagree that all these effects are negative.

Para 1: in sensitive areas such as the toy industry, excess advertisement can be detrimental for the children and their families – children pester parents – upsets family budget

Para 2: advertisements of fast foods are also bad for children

Para 3: advertisements also provide beneficial information

Conclusion: it is true that advertisements affect children in negative ways but at the same time there are many positive effects also

Some people think the mobile phones are most useful for their professional lives, others think mobiles phones are most useful in their personal life. Discuss both of them and give your opinion.

The mobile phone is ubiquitous these days. I believe that mobile phones are very beneficial in both - personal as well as professional lives.

In personal life, the main advantage of a mobile phone is that it keeps people connected to their kith and kin at all times. Today we live in nuclear families but are connected to our extended family network all because of the cell phone. Secondly, it saves a lot of time. In the spare time that a person gets while travelling or waiting for someone he can carry out a number of tasks such as paying bills, ordering grocery, booking tickets and so on. Nowadays we all know that both parents are working. If they do all this work while commuting to and from work, they can give more time to their children once they are home. The world would be a lot slower had the mobile not been there. What is more, children who have to leave their elderly parents at home because of work, feel comfortable because they know they can be called any time their parents need them.

On the other hand, in professional life also, the cell phone has proved to be an asset. Professionals can use functions like call conferencing and video call conferencing instead of traditional face to face meetings. This saves a great amount of valuable time and cost for the companies. In addition, last-minute information that could make or break a project can also be delivered if a business cell phone is kept on hand. For instance, in the case of an emergency, having a business cell phone allows workers to call their fellow co-workers at all hours. Moreover, phones with advanced features, such as global positioning systems (GPS), also help you navigate with ease, making sure that you are able to meet with a new client on time.

It is difficult to decide which sphere of life has been influenced more with a mobile phone. In many cases it is difficult to draw the line between personal and professional use. For example, a busy gynaecologist having to attend a patient in labour can attend her children also side by side in the time before delivery. This way neither the personal life suffers nor the professional life. Ten years ago the cell phone was a luxury; today it is a necessity to balance personal and professional life.

To conclude, the cell phone has revolutionized communication and brought equal benefits to both personal and professional lives.

#### Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages in personal life

- connected to our extended family network
- saves time - can carry out a number of tasks such as paying bills, ordering grocery, booking tickets and so on – more time for children
- connected to elderly parents

Para 2: Advantages in professional life

- call conferencing and video call conferencing instead of traditional face to face meetings. This saves a great amount of valuable time and cost
- last-minute information that could make or break a project can also be delivered if a business cell phone is kept on hand
- phones with advanced features, such as global positioning systems (GPS), also help you navigate with ease, making sure that you are able to meet with a new client on time

Para 3: Overlapping role of cell phone

- e.g. of gynaecologist - neither the personal life suffers nor the professional life

Conclusion: equal benefit

Computers are increasingly popular these days. Many people think that the advantages the computer has brought outweigh the disadvantages. What is your opinion? Give your reasons in your own experience.

Computers are ubiquitous nowadays and almost every home, office, or school has a computer of some kind these days. There can be no denying that this is because of the plethora benefits we get from using computers. However, just like any other machine, computers have a few disadvantages also.

On the positive side, our personal and professional lives have improved because of computers. We can now do more things and do them more easily than we could before. Checkout lines at stores move faster because a computer scans the prices. The bank manages our account more easily because of computers. The weatherman reports the weather more accurately with the help of computers. A computer is involved in almost everything we do, or that is done for us. Most people these days do their jobs with the help of a computer. Architects use computer programs to help them design buildings. Teachers use computers to write their lessons and get information for their classes. Pilots use computers to help them fly planes. With the help of computers, people can do complicated jobs more easily.

Furthermore, through the Internet, computers make communication much more convenient. E-mail makes it possible to communicate with people instantly at any time of day. This is important for both our work and our personal lives. The Internet makes it possible to find out the latest news right away - even if it is news that happens someplace far away. The Internet makes it possible to get almost any kind of information from any place quickly, right in your own home or office. To add to it we can now do net-banking, online shopping and even do air and rail reservations online.

On the other hand, many jobs have been lost due to the fact that computer can do a lot of tasks more efficiently than humans. This has led to high unemployment in many countries. What is more, kids if left unsupervised would spend all of their time playing games on the computer rather than using it for educational purpose. Moreover children might use the internet to access pornographic material. Furthermore some people when working from home with computer are far more likely to feel cut off from rest of the world. Also frequent and prolonged computer exposure may pose physical health risks especially for children. The most frequently cited are visual strain, harmful effects of radiation and posture problems. Last but not least, in case of network failure, the whole office work may come to a standstill.

To sum up, computers and the internet have come to stay. There is no going back despite the obvious drawbacks. Obviously, the pros of computers are far more than cons provided they are used wisely.

### **Plan used**

**Intro: Advantages more than disadvantages**

**Para 1: Advantages**

- on personal life with examples
- on professional lives with examples

**Para 2: Advantages through the internet**

- Communication
- Information
- Services like net banking, online shopping etc

**Para 3: disadvantages**

- Unemployment
- Overuse by children
- Misuse
- Health effects

**Conclusion: pros more than cons**



Some people argue that the technology such as mobile phone (cell phone) destroys social interaction. Do you agree or disagree?

Due to the contribution of technology, like other electronic devices, mobile phones have become part of daily lives. That is why some opine that the cell phone has had an adverse effect on social interaction. However, I disagree with this notion. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

To begin with, mobile phones have not destroyed social interaction; they have merely changed it. Now people do not meet each other face to face; they are connected through this marvel of technology. Various options of mobile sets allow one to be connected with all around him, even with long lost friends and neighbors. Inside a hand set we can save contact numbers and can get informed if someone calls even when the set is switched off. So no one is beyond reach over very long distances. Internet browsing, email checking options through cell phone also have made our life easier and one can get latest news of any member over a second of time within his social circle. Earlier when a person was away from home, he was cut off from his family till he returned. But, today he is connected with them all the time.

Furthermore, it would not be wrong to say that social interaction has greatly enhanced because of this technological godsend. Earlier people had friends only in their propinquity, but now it is possible to have a large number of friends from the whole world. It goes without saying that today's youngsters have the largest social network that ever in the history of mankind.

Undoubtedly, face-to-face interaction has come down but that is because of the fast-paced lifestyle. Over the last half century, our lifestyles have changed beyond our wildest expectations. To survive in this 24/7 society and to keep up with the Jones' people have become workaholics. This is the main reason of the loss of social interaction. The mobile phones only help people stay interconnected in today's time.

To sum up, cell phones have not lessened social interaction, they have merely changed the way of interaction and they have in many ways increased the social network of people.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: disagree

Para 1: cell phones have changed social interaction

Para 2: cell phones have enhanced social interaction

Para 3: face to face interaction has lessened because of the fast paced lifestyle and not because of the cell phones.

Conclusion: Reiterate your opinion

Some people prefer to live in hot climate, while others like to live in cold climate. Discuss both of the views and give your own opinions.

There are various factors which a person considers while deciding a place to live and climate is just one of them. This essay shall discuss why some people prefer a cold climate and others choose to live in a warmer one.

There are several benefits of living in a country with a hot climate. The main advantage is that people can afford being outside in the sun and doing outdoor activities. For example, residents of the hot countries spend their time sunbathing, swimming in the sea and eating in the open air. Another benefit of warm weather is that it is cheaper and easier to buy clothes and wearing less clothing gives you a feeling of freedom. Also many elderly people choose to move to hotter climates for health reasons and to avoid the harsh winter conditions.

On the other hand, cold climate also has its advantages. The main advantage is economic benefits. Many people like snow activities such as skiing, sledding and building snowmen and therefore they come to these places as tourists for such activities, so the residents get a chance to earn from tourism. What is more, people don't have to worry about sweating and suffering from heat strokes.

Personally, I believe that extremes of both hot and cold climate are not good. Both types of climates have their share of pleasures and challenges. In India, we generally have the tropical climate in which there are four seasons – summer, winter, autumn and spring. Summers are generally very hot and winters very cool. Autumn and spring generally have pleasant weather which is neither too hot nor too cold. So we get to enjoy all types of weather.

To conclude, it can be said that there are pros and cons of both types of climates and choosing to live in any climate is a matter of personal choice.

#### Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of hot climate

- people can afford being outside in the sun and doing outdoor activities
- it is cheaper and easier to buy clothes and wearing less clothing gives you a feeling of freedom
- many elderly people choose to move to hotter climates for health reasons and to avoid the harsh winter conditions

Para 2: Advantages of cold climate

- main advantage is economic benefits
- people like snow activities such as skiing, sledding and building snowmen
- people earn from tourism

Para 3: own view – refer to climate of your country

Conclusion: it is a matter of personal choice

Nowadays, some people are changing their way of look through hair color, clothes, cosmetics even plastic operation. What are the reasons? Is this a good thing?

For centuries, men and women have beautified their eyes, lips and body. Now modern science and cosmetology have merged to create various techniques for enhancing one's looks. Many individuals, nowadays, are giving themselves a complete makeover by using these new techniques. This essay shall discuss the reasons for this development. I believe it is good only upto some limit. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The most important reason is that in today's society, changing one's appearance through hair color, eye contacts, and cosmetic surgery, seems to be the answer to looking good. It is a general perception that when you look good, you feel better; when you feel better, you behave better; when you behave better, the people around you tend to respond to you positively. Earlier, when all these facilities were not there, people had to accept themselves as they were and a person who was not born with good features always lived with some inferiority complex and remained an introvert throughout life.

Secondly, in today's competitive era, looks are very important, so much so that some professions are totally dependent on looks. Many film stars have got face lifts and other cosmetic surgeries done on their faces to look younger and thus be in job for longer. Even in some other jobs such as receptionists in offices and air hostesses, looks are given weightage over other things. Moreover, some people have their faces disfigured due to accidents or any other trauma. For example, one of my friends lost her ear in an accident. For months she kept that side of the face covered by her hair and could not wear any jewelry and therefore suffered a lot of mental trauma. Finally, she consulted a plastic surgeon and got an ear implant. Now she has regained her confidence.

I believe that this is a positive thing but only in some limit. If it is done after an accident then it is good, but if people spend exorbitant amounts just to look like their favourite celebrity then it is not justified. One must remember that ultimately what matters is the inner 'you'. It is more important to be beautiful from within. What is more, cosmetic surgery is not without its side-effects. Even the products used on hair and face may damage the hair and skin permanently. Finally, terrorists may get cosmetic surgeries to look different and this may prove very detrimental to society.

To conclude, changing one's looks through hair colour, beauty products and surgery is good only if done within a limit and for some reason like after an accident. The outer appearance may have a temporary appeal but what ultimately matters is the person within.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall discuss the reasons for this development. I believe it is good only upto some limit.

Para 1: First reason

- To look good – and thus rid yourself of the mental trauma of ugly looks

Para 2: Other reasons

- Some careers depend on looks – film stars, receptionists
- After accidents

Para 3: It is good if done within a limit

- Good to restore confidence after an accident
- Bad if done just to look like some celeb
- Bad if done by terrorists

Conclusion: reiterate what said earlier

Wearing fashionable clothes is becoming important today. Is the attitude to wearing fashionable clothes leading to a positive development or negative development?

Fashion has never been out of fashion. It is a way of life. It has been evolving ever since Eve decided to start wearing a fig leaf. However, it is also true that it has become very essential in today's time to look fashionable. This is both a positive as well as a negative development.

To begin with, fashion plays a foremost role in giving the crucial first impression. In the period of cut-throat competition, a lot of weightage is given to personality that is our dress and demeanour. It has become a barometer to measure our social standing and success. What is more, it adds variety to our life when we try out new apparels. It also satisfies the creative urge in us, for only man is gifted with an aesthetic sense that makes him want the things around him including his attire to look beautiful.

Perhaps the biggest advantage of this trend is that it has given rise to an entirely new industry which is worth over a thousand crore rupees. No wonder, large educational institutes are imparting specialised fashion technology courses such as the NIFT and NIFD. It has given rise to a plethora of new industries ranging from apparel to accessories. It has become a lucrative career option for the youth today. Many fashion houses of India are exporting clothes to foreign countries and earning valuable foreign exchange.

On the other hand, it has become an exclusive preserve of the rich and the influential for they have the means and the resources to indulge in this luxury. This creates a sharp divide between the haves and the have-nots which in turn creates a psychological imbalance in the youth. They try to ape their affluent friends, but in the absence of means resort to unlawful and unethical means. A lot of petty crime is done by today's youngsters just to buy a pair of fashionable shoes.

The need is therefore to strike a balance between being fashionable and wearing what is right for us. We must not blindly follow fashion but we should wear what suits us and in what we feel comfortable. The clothes which look good on others may not suit us and wearing those clothes may make us a subject of ridicule.

Summing up, we must be in fashion to add flavour to our lives, but we must beware of the 'herd' instinct which impels us to emulate others without considering its suitability on us.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This is both a positive as well as a negative development.

Para 1: - advantages

- fashion plays a foremost role in giving the crucial first impression
- it adds variety to our life when we try out new apparels
- It also satisfies the creative urge in us

Para 2: advantage

it has given rise to an entirely new industry

Para 3: disadvantages

- it has become an exclusive preserve of the rich and the influential
- creates a sharp divide between the haves and the have-nots
- creates a psychological imbalance in the youth
- resort to unlawful and unethical means

Conclusion: Following fashion is good but within a limit and according to what suits us.

To what extent do you think governments should be held responsible when problems of homelessness and unemployment arise?

When a country has a large number of homeless and unemployed people, it is a clear indication that something is wrong with the way it is governed. However, I do not agree that the governments can be held completely responsible for loss of jobs and homes. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

It is a well known fact that the economy of any country depends on internal and external factors. A government can be held responsible for the internal conflicts that might be causing joblessness and homelessness. However, no government in the world can effectively control external affairs. For example, a lot of people lost jobs due to the economic crisis in 2008. In fact, the US recession caused job loss in countries like India and China. It affected India's booming outsourcing industry. And because it was an external factor, the governments in India couldn't be held responsible for this situation.

Nonetheless, there are many things that governments can do to reduce the severity of these problems and protect their citizens. Governments collect taxes from the wealthy people. It is definitely the onus of the government to use this money effectively to improve the living standards of the poorer sections of the society. If a government fails to do it, it is certainly inefficient. In India, for example, the government has launched several schemes to provide housing and employment to people. Although the country still faces these problems, the situation has considerably improved in recent years. This is a clear indication that political willpower and proper governance can improve the economic status of a country and its people.

To sum up, it is difficult to arrive at the conclusion that governments can be held completely responsible for problems like job loss and unemployment. Of course, the governments have a role to play in easing these problems, but factors outside the control of a government too can upset a nation's financial status.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: I do not agree that the governments can be held completely responsible for loss of jobs and homes

Para 1: External factors can cause homelessness and unemployment

Para 2: how good governance can help ease the situation

Conclusion:

Some people believe that hobbies need to be difficult to be enjoyable. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Hobbies of people change over period of time. Some hobbies are relatively easy, while others involve more of a challenge. Personally, I believe that hobby is an activity which can give us pleasure and hence both types of hobbies can be fun for different people and therefore I disagree with the statement that hobbies need to be difficult in order to be enjoyable. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Firstly, one follows hobby to get fun and so he does it with heart, it is not necessary to have difficult hobbies to get fun from it. Many people enjoy easy hobbies. One example of an activity that is easy for most people is watching movies or listening to music which is one of the most popular hobbies of mostly all families in my town. One another instance is playing some easy games like angry birds or snakes do not involve as much difficulty as some other games, even though they become more popular hobbies of many people in short time. These kinds of hobbies require no hardship; they are simple and yet people enjoy them a lot.

Moreover, some activities which can be very tough for one can be easier for others who possess it as a hobby. For example, knitting is my passion and I find it very easy. I can even make very complicated patterns and knit all types of sweaters with ease. But when my sister tries to knit, she finds it really hard and cannot do it well even if she tries very hard. So, I believe it is not the degree of difficulty which makes hobby more interesting or enjoyable but the interest we take in it.

On the other hand, there are some hobbies which involve some challenges can give us sense of satisfaction or sense of achievement, and sometimes this sense of achievement makes us enjoy those hobbies more. However, I still believe that a hobby is an activity which provides us fun and this could be anything from playing with one's favourite pet to filling colours on canvas. One can get fun from anything and, it is not essential in every case to face a challenge to enjoy it.

To summarise, choosing hobbies and enjoying them varies from person to person. It is not necessary for any activity to involve some difficulty to become enjoyable. In fact a simple hobby can give us a lot of pleasure with relaxation.

**Plan followed:**

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Firstly, one follows hobby to get fun and so he does it with heart, it is not necessary to have difficult hobbies to get fun from it. Give examples.

Para 2: What is tough for one may be easy for others. It is not the degree of difficulty which makes hobby more interesting or enjoyable but the interest we take in it. Give example

Para 3: there are some hobbies which involve some challenges can give us sense of satisfaction or sense of achievement, and sometimes this sense of achievement makes us enjoy those hobbies more. Give examples

Conclusion:

Some people are making new friends by using socializing network websites and internet chat rooms. Some people say that this is a good thing. Other people say that people should make new friends by face-to-face chat. Discuss these views and give your own opinion.

Some individuals are of the opinion that it is good to make friends online on various social networking sites and internet chat rooms. However, others are in favour of making friends by direct face to face chat. This essay intends to look at both perspectives. I personally side with the latter view.

On the one hand, social network sites like 'Facebook' provide a great opportunity for people to socialize with one another and find common ground, before even meeting. Online social groups have become fundamental building blocks of modern human societies. They have a beneficial effect on our way of life. They increase our social interaction and give us more ways to make social connections. Earlier our social interactions were constrained by national boundaries, but now the Internet has turned communication into a global phenomenon. Today, our network of friends stretches across the globe.

On the other hand, making friends through direct contact is definitely better as social media sites can cause more harm than good. People can make fake IDs and cheat anyone. Every now and then we hear stories how girls and boys were cheated through such sites and after months of friendship, the original identity of the person turned out to be very different. Cyber criminals can hack the IDs of people and chat on their behalf which may cause huge misunderstandings.

Furthermore, face to face friendship is better because it is a friendship which has a deeper bond than online friendship. Man is after all a social animal and friends are meant to be there when you need them the most. Online friends cannot be with you when you are sick and you need a friend's touch. Face to face friends are with you in thick and thin and this can never be possible with online friends.

To sum up, even though the growing majority of the world's population abides by the social meme: "I love my computer, because my friends live in it", I still reiterate my opinion that face to face friendships are stronger and longer-lasting.

Plan followed:

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages of online friends

Para 2: Advantages of face to face friends

Para 3: More advantages of face to face friends

Conclusion:

Nowadays there is a trend of buying goods even when they are not necessary. Why do people tend to buy those? Is it a positive or negative trend regarding individual and society?

It is irrefutable that today we belong to an era of consumerism and people purchase things without even needing all of them. This essay intends to delve into the reasons of this trend. I believe that it is both – positive as well as negative for the individual and society.

There are many reasons why people buy more and more products. Firstly, because of globalization people are flooded with choices. When they see a new product they want that too. What is more, the buying capacity of people has gone up because of developing economies. To add to it, the manufacturing industries are producing cheaper consumer goods which are affordable by the common man. Finally, people want to show-off their status by buying these materialistic things.

On the positive side, consumerism leads to mass production which is something good for the employment sector. Mass manufacturing definitely leads to mass employment. This is undoubtedly beneficial for the overall economy of the country. Furthermore, because of consumerism, people get choices. When there is demand, more and more manufacturers come in the market. For instance, about two decades ago, there was only Kissan tomato ketchup in the market; but today we have Heinz, Del Monte, Cremica, Maggi and so many more varieties of tomato ketchups in the market.

On the downside, consumerism promotes a use-and-throw culture which is very bad for the environment. There is a lot of rubbish generated because of excessive consumerism. Unnecessary packaging is also done to make these goods appealing to the eye. Often, this rubbish is not decomposed and ends up in rivers and waterways. This is definitely harmful to the environment.

Secondly, consumerism makes people work more and more to afford these products. This workaholicism makes them forget to draw a line between work and leisure and also between work and family. The desires never end and consequently over-working becomes a part of life. This leads to stress and strain in life. Another negative point is that, when children or youngsters are lured by these things and their parents cannot afford them, then they resort to petty crime such as pick-pocketing and chain snatching, which is certainly not good for any society.

To sum up, consumerism has both merits and demerits but the cons are definitely more than the pros.

**Plan followed:**

Intro:

Para 1: Causes of consumerism

Para 2: Positives of consumerism

Para 3: Cons of consumerism

Para 4: More cons of consumerism

Conclusion:



Sending criminals to prison is not the best method of dealing with them. Education and job training are better ways to help them. Do you agree or disagree?

There are many different opinions on the best way to reduce crime. The traditional solution is to punish the criminals by putting them in prison. Some hold the view that education and job training are the long term solutions to cut crime. In my opinion, prison is the only answer in a few situations, but in most cases education, vocational training and rehabilitation are better.

Prison is the only answer in case of criminals who are a risk to the society, such as murderers. They cannot be made to mix with society. Some people also say that people would not be afraid of doing crime if fear of imprisonment is not there. But I still feel that in majority of cases, we can do without prisons.

In traditional prisons, people learn a lot about crime and so when they leave prison they will commit even more crime. In other words prisons act as universities of crime. So petty offenders like shop-lifters and pick-pockets should be given some vocational training and education. It is a well known fact that the basic causes of crime are poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. So, if we provide education and job training then we would be removing the causes of crime. If criminals are rehabilitated by some form of employment then they would certainly not re-offend.

Furthermore, the prisons are expensive to maintain. The government can spend that money on other important matters such as education and healthcare. This would ease some burden from the government's shoulders. The petty and minor criminals can also be employed in some community service projects after providing education and vocational training.

Summing up, we should hate the crime and not the criminal. To fight crime we should focus on the causes of crime. Education and job training help to rehabilitate the criminals. So, people who commit less serious crimes should not be sent to prison. Focus should be on reforming them.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: partially agree

Para 1: Enumerate those crimes for which prison is the only answer - Society needs to be protected from them

- Hard core criminals
- Those who commit heinous crimes

Para 2: Why prison is not the answer - Prisons act as schools / universities of crime

Root causes of crime – illiteracy and poverty ---Education and job training are the answer to eliminate these causes. Vocational education

Para 3: Maintaining prisons is a burden on the govt.

Conclusion:

Parent, usually mothers, give up work, choose to stay home and look after families. Some people think the government should give them salary, others disagree. Do you agree or disagree. Give the reasons from your own knowledge and experience.

I definitely agree with the notion that mothers, who stay at home to look after their children and family should be compensated by the government. In the following paragraphs I intend to put forth my arguments to support my views.

My major argument is that the future of the world rests largely in the hands of the generation we are rearing. Once a child is born, it becomes national property. Mothers are the front line child care providers and therefore, if they are supported by the government they can do their job better. This help can be in the form of a salary by the government. In most Indian homes the mother's salary is necessary to support the family. So, if the mother does not get paid, then she has to go back to job and this affects the childcare. Nurseries fail to provide the one-to-one interaction children need.

Secondly, a woman has to go through very stressful time physically, emotionally, and financially during pregnancy period. There is extra financial burden related to her prenatal care, preparing for a new baby, and then the care of the baby. Therefore, government help can ease their burden and they can look after their babies nicely. Finally, if women are supported by the government, they can look after their health. Health as such involves several factors. It is not simply being free from diseases. So, proper education, enough employment opportunities, food security and affordable medical care are some of the contributory factors that the government can provide to make women healthy. Needless to say, there should be enough provision for all these in a society that expects to be healthy today and tomorrow. It is well known that women play the most crucial role in managing the health of the family. And healthy families contribute greatly to social welfare.

The opponents, however, claim that it is a personal choice to stay home to look after family. So, why should there be government support for women who stay at home to look after their families? They have a point, but I still feel that women need the aid considering the physical, emotional, and financial stress they face.

To sum up, women should be supported by the government to look after the family and themselves. This can contribute a lot to social welfare.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree

Para 1: future of the world rests largely in the hands of the generation we are rearing. Once a child is born, it becomes national property. Mothers are the front line child care providers and therefore, if they are supported by the government they can do their job better.

Para 2: a woman has to go through very stressful time physically, emotionally, and financially during pregnancy period.

Para 3: Opponents view and then refute it

Conclusion: women should be supported by the government to look after the baby and themselves. This can contribute a lot to social welfare.

Tobacco is a kind of drug. People have been free to use it. Some people think that it should be illegal to use it comparing with other drugs. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

(Against banning)

Every year, thousands of people worldwide die from both smoking tobacco and involuntarily breathing it in. Despite this, I do not agree that it should be made illegal. However, I also believe that there should be a regulation on its use, considering its harms to health. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

It is irrefutable that tobacco products, especially cigarettes, could cause lung cancer, heart disease, and other illnesses. Drug abuse also has many potentially harmful effects not only on individuals but also on family, friends, work and society. Frequent drug users may turn to crime to meet the increasing expense for their habit. Continued drug use may cause personality changes. Some users lose interest in school or work, or have difficulty meeting the responsibilities of a job or family.

Nonetheless, it costs society far more to prohibit a drug than it does to regulate it. And it is not talking about just money. Prohibition creates organized crime, which results in street wars. With more violence comes more police, and that means more cost. Regulation on the other hand, works quite well. The government should decide who gets to make it, who sells it, and who it is sold to. There should be controls on tobacco regarding potency, packaging, advertising, and a lot of other things. This is definitely better than banning a drug which leads to organized crime.

Moreover, tobacco has long been a source of money for the governments in many countries. This income comes from taxes on the manufactured products. Excise taxes also come from tobacco that arrives from other countries. Finally, I believe that it is better to educate people about the harms of tobacco. This approach has worked better in many countries and there has been a reduction in the sale of tobacco products

To summarise, banning tobacco is not a good idea. Drug prohibition has been the most failed social policy and banning tobacco is a step backwards. However, there should be control on the manufacturing and sale of tobacco.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Dangers of tobacco

Para 2: First reason against banning

Para 3: More reasons

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

Tobacco is a kind of drug. People have been free to use it. Some people think that it should be illegal to use it comparing with other drugs. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

(For banning)

Every year, thousands of people worldwide die from both smoking tobacco and involuntarily breathing it in. Therefore, I agree that it should be made illegal considering its harms to health. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

It is irrefutable that tobacco products, especially cigarettes, could cause lung cancer, heart disease, and other illnesses. Smoking tobacco kills more than alcohol, drug abuse, car crashes, murders, suicides, and fires combined. World-wide some 3 million people die from smoking each year, 1 every 10 seconds. Smokers are more than 20 times more likely to develop lung cancer than non-smokers, and smoking can lead to a host of other health problems, including emphysema and heart disease.

The detrimental effects of cigarette smoke are not just on the active smoker, but also on the passive smoker. Smoking tobacco not only gives the smoker a high chance of an early grave it gives those around him/her the same chances due to second hand smoke. What is more, a child born to a woman who has actively or passively smoked during pregnancy has chances of developing congenital defects.

Drug abuse also has many potentially harmful effects not only on individuals but also on family, friends, work and society. Frequent drug users may turn to crime to meet the increasing expense for their habit. Continued drug use may cause personality changes. Some users lose interest in school or work, or have difficulty meeting the responsibilities of a job or family.

To summarise, one of the main responsibilities of any government is to ensure the safety of its population, that is why taking tobacco should be made illegal.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Dangers of tobacco

Para 2: First reason for banning

Para 3: More reasons

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

Nowadays, some people still prefer to ride bicycles. To what extent do you think this will help us in today's life?

A bicycle is a mechanism that has transported man for many decades. Nowadays, many people use bicycle to move from one place to another in short distances. The purpose of this essay is to explain how riding a bicycle can help us in our present life. I believe that by riding a bicycle, people can decrease gasoline consumption, improve the quality of their lives, and protect the environment.

The first benefit of using a bicycle for short distances is that you can cause a decrease of pollution. Because many people use their cars to move short distances, they increase the rates of pollution causing more pollution problems to our environment. That is why the use of a bicycle for short distances is a really good idea to help lower the rates of pollution.

The second benefit of using a bicycle for short distances is that you can help lower petrol or diesel consumption. If you use a bicycle or a car to move to a place that is near your home, you will decrease the petrol or diesel consumption of your car. This can save you a lot of money because the price of these fossil fuels is expensive. Maybe, it is the laziness of some people who use their cars to drive to places that are near their homes. However, this habit of driving causes an increase of gasoline consumption.

Finally, the most important benefit of riding a bicycle on short trips is that it can help you have good health. When you ride a bicycle, you use your legs to move, and this physical exercise is aerobic which means that your heart is pumping blood throughout your body, so it fortifies your heart, lungs, and other important parts of your body.

To sum up, these are some excellent reasons to ride a bicycle. I think that we need to make a distinction when it is better to use a car or a bicycle. We need to keep in mind that riding a bicycle will provide us with health and other benefits. That is why if we use a bicycle, it can improve the quality of life of the person who owns it.

**Plan followed**

Intro:

Para 1: First benefit - decrease of pollution

Para 2: Second benefit - save you a lot of money

Para 3: Final benefit – help you have good health

Conclusion:

Many people are moving to big cities. Why is that? Do you think it is a good trend?

Nowadays many people are migrating from their rural homes to study and work in cities. This essay shall look into the reasons of this phenomenon. I believe that the demerits of this definitely outweigh the merits.

To begin with, the major reason of such practice is ascribed to splendid educational resources and plentiful employment opportunities in urban areas. In other words, studying and working in cities with better facilities offers young people a chance to escape from the fate of their parents who rely solely on painstaking labour. For instance, diligent students from poverty-stricken areas can acquire exceedingly good academic scores, which pave way for their future success. As for work, people are exposed to various career opportunities which are not there in the villages.

The movement of people to cities in turn creates many problems in cities. First of all, there is a lot of pressure on the resources such as land, water and infrastructure like public transport, health care and law and order etc. This also leads to encroachment of pavements and creation of slums. Moreover, there is increase the demand and consumption of water which poses serious health hazards. Health hazards resulting from urbanization are also connected to air pollution.

Furthermore, the deprivation of rural labor force by people swarming into urban areas further extends the gap between the city and country. Agriculture, which has been the backbone of economy, is taking a back seat. Elderly people are left alone in the villages, which is adding to their loneliness. On top of that, the governments are also diverting all the funds on the betterment of cities, whereas rural areas are ignored.

To sum up, urbanization is an irreversible tendency, which is offering the youth to enjoy various job opportunities and educational resources to have a better future. There are cons of this development, but the pros definitely outstrip the cons.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: disadvantages

Para 3: disadvantages

Conclusion

In some societies, more and more people choose to live on their own. What is the reason for this, and is it a positive or negative trend?

In the modern society, young people prefer to stay apart from their parents and live on their own in big cities. This situation has both – advantages as well as disadvantages. Personally, I believe that the cons outweigh the pros.

This independent lifestyle has some reasons. In this scenario, the young people have more freedom which allows them to do what they find interesting and worthwhile which their parents may not like. The older generation may hold their traditional way of life or values which may be rejected by the younger one. On top of the generation gap, nuclear family allows career pursuits which require much dedication including time, energy and concentration. This is not possible while living in joint or extended families as the older members in joint families also require time and looking after. Therefore, to achieve the dream of success, young people leave their hometown and their family and rush alone into major cities where more chances of career success can be expected.

However, this modern lifestyle can have some negative effects on individuals and the society as a whole. Firstly, the young people are disconnected with their families and original community and hence are losing traditional values and cultures, and are being assimilated by globally popular culture. Moreover, living alone without long term and stable relationships is widely thought to be associated with the lack of personal sense of happiness and the increase of sense of isolation, which could reduce an individual's general satisfaction with life.

In the joint families, the children and the grandparents enjoyed a symbiotic relationship which was a win-win situation for both. The grandparents were there to keep a watchful eye on their grandchildren and the grandchildren enjoyed the stories told by their grandparents who had all the time in the world for them. Nowadays the children are left unattended and have chances of falling into bad company and going astray. The elderly are also left alone when they need the company of their near and dear ones the most.

To sum up, living alone or in small family units in big cities is good for the pursuit of career and for an interference free life but it has serious disadvantages. Man is after all a social animal and needs the comfort and support of his nears and dears in tough times. It is time to realise the positives of the joint and extended family system to lead a life of happiness in the long run. A Chinese proverb has rightly pointed out that – 'In times of test, family is best'.

**Plan followed:**

Intro: This situation has both – advantages as well as disadvantages.

Para 1: Advantages of living alone and nuclear families

Para 2: Disadvantages of living alone and nuclear families

Para 3: Disadvantages of living alone and nuclear families

Conclusion:

Some people say that it is impossible to live comfortably in big cities. What problems are faced by the people living in big cities? What solutions can be taken to solve those problems?

Cities are growing. Unfortunately this development has made it difficult for people to lead a comfortable life in cities. This essay intends to analyze the problems faced because of this situation and suggest some solutions.

To begin with, the most common problem in many cities is environmental pollution and unhygienic surroundings. This is because cities act as magnets for people of the rural areas as a result of which cities have to house more people than they can possibly afford. Therefore it is hard to maintain cleanliness. Unhygienic surroundings are the breeding ground for germs and cause many health problems. On top of that, the spending capacity of people has gone up and so more and more people are buying their personal vehicles. This vehicular pollution affects the quality of air and leads to many respiratory ailments. All of these affect the quality of life in cities.

Furthermore, the cost of living is also pretty high in metros. In large cities, land prices are exorbitant. Consequently, people are forced to buy ridiculously small homes for huge prices. Those who cannot afford to do so spend the whole of their lives in rented apartments. Worse still, the law and order situation in many big cities is not particularly good making them unsafe for visitors as well as those dwelling in those localities.

The solutions are not simple, but many of these problems can be solved with a little bit of planning. High population density is the main reason that reduces the quality of life in cities. Although this is not exactly avoidable, governments can reduce the migration to cities by making jobs available in smaller towns as well. For example, industrial units can be set up in small towns and villages. If these units employ the people living nearby they will not have to move into large cities. What's more, the fact that cities are home to a large number of people makes it possible for civic bodies to collect more money from taxes etc. If these taxes are utilized properly civic authorities can build better roads and flyovers that will ease the traffic congestion. And by improving the quality of public health care, the government can ensure that all people get medical attention when they need it.

To sum up, poor planning and the centralization of jobs is the main reason that reduces the quality of life in large cities. However, these problems are solvable to a great extent. The governments just need to make a determined effort to decentralize the jobs.

**Plan followed:**

Intro:

Para 1: causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:



In many countries there is a lot of rubbish (garbage) because more and more people buy things. What are the causes? In your country, does it have the same problem?

Environmentalists today are campaigning for "reduce, recycle and re-use" in a bid to save the world, but many countries populace have adopted "replace" as their mantra. My country, India, is no exception. This and many other factors are leading to a highly consumerist society. In this essay, I shall discuss the causes of this consumerism and some steps that can be taken to solve this problem.

To begin with, modern lifestyle has contributed greatly to the increasing amount of waste and garbage we produce every day. In other words, we have turned into a materialistic and mass-consumption society where we use more and throw away more than ever before. Once new things are acquired, we dispose-off these "unwanted" things to second hand shops or just in the trash cans. The solution lies in changing our attitude. We should get old things repaired and try to use them as long as possible.

Secondly, the markets today are flooded with cheap, single-use-only things that are more in demand than high priced quality items. Our houses and closets seem to be overflowing with goods that are more in quantity and less in value. Then, there is too much packaging done by the companies in a bid to make their things more attractive. Here too, the onus lies with us. We should not buy things with excessive packaging. This will deter companies from doing too much packaging. We can also bring our own personal shopping bags instead of using plastic bags provided by stores and shops. Besides, the government can enforce stricter laws on companies to use biodegradable packaging.

Furthermore, plastics, waste metal, glass can be recycled. Companies can also contribute by developing new raw material which is recyclable and will ultimately lead to less garbage.

To sum up, individuals, business and the government can share the responsibility to reduce the amount of waste material and to save the earth. If we do not take steps to tackle this problem on a war footing, our Earth will become un-inhabitable.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: In this essay, I shall discuss the factors which are leading to consumerism and some steps that can be taken to solve this problem

Para 1: modern lifestyle - materialistic and mass-consumption society - solution lies in changing our attitude. We should get old things repaired and try to use them as long as possible

Para 2: markets today are flooded with cheap, single-use-only things that are more in demand than high priced quality items - there is too much packaging – suggest solutions

Para 3: The answer lies in recycling

Conclusion – individuals, business and the government can share the responsibility to reduce the amount of waste material and to save the earth

Some people believe what the elderly say, that life was better in the past. Do you agree or disagree?

Although it is true that a great many people now have a higher standard of living than in the past, it does not seem that it makes people any happier. In many ways and in many places, life is much easier and more comfortable than it used to be, but I agree that life was better in the past. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

One feature of modern life that has changed in many places is that people have less contact with each other, and there is less of a feeling of belonging to a community. People leave their hometowns more than they used to and so family ties are not as strong as they used to be. In cities, people often do not know their neighbours. As a result of all this, people can feel isolated. People help each other less and there is much more emphasis on the individual. Earlier, people had slower lives and they knew each other and led happier lives with a feeling of belonging for each other.

Modern life has also brought with it problems that people do not think existed in the past. For example, many people are concerned about rises in crime, and they also feel that life is much faster and more stressful than it used to be.

Another reason for people's unhappiness is that they have higher expectations than they used to have. They have more but they want even more. This leads to feelings of disappointment and even anger when people do not have everything they think they should have. People take for granted all sorts of comforts and material possessions that people in the past would have considered luxuries. They don't appreciate what they have. They simply want more. In the past, the society was not consumerist. People bought only what they needed and were happy and contented.

It is also true, in my opinion, that when people have all the basic needs for survival, they are likely to become more introverted and think about life more. This can lead to feeling of depression and dissatisfaction with their lives. If you are struggling to survive, you do not have the time or the opportunity to think so much about the meaning of life.

Of course, it is impossible to return to the past and nobody would want to exchange the comforts of modern life for the way that people used to live. However, in many ways, progress has not made people happier. Therefore, I reiterate my opinion that life was better in the past.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree

Para 1: isolated lives today

Para 2: More crime and more stress today

Para 3: Consumerist society. No contentment

Para 4: People think about their needs more as basic necessities is not a problem today.

Conclusion –

There is an increasing number of people using the credit card which seems likely to replace the coins and notes in the future. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

The ease in swiping a credit card for a purchase has made it very popular nowadays. Therefore, many opine that this plastic money will replace the coins and paper money in future. I believe that it is both a positive as well as a negative development. The weight of the merits and demerits of credit card is in the hands of the user.

There are many benefits of credit cards. Firstly, you can use them practically everywhere, especially overseas. They can also boost your purchasing power because they can be used to buy goods and services over the phone, through the mail and online. To add to it, they provide financial backup in the event of an emergency, such as an unexpected healthcare cost, job loss or auto repair. For instance, my parents were on a holiday in Kerala and there my mother had a medical emergency. She had to be hospitalized, but because my father had his credit card with him, he had no problem in paying the hospital bills.

Furthermore, credit cards allow you to purchase items and pay them off in monthly installments. They also offer discounts and rewards at stores. For instance, when you make purchases using the credit card you can collect points, which accumulate and can be used to get free items, such as airline tickets. Some cards may offer cash back as an incentive to use the card. They can help build your credit history. A person with a good credit history does not face problems when applying for a loan for any reason. Credit cards also keep a record of your expenses, helping you to monitor your financial activities.

On the other hand, credit cards can have their disadvantages. The most dangerous part of credit cards is not paying them off on time, and once you fall behind by one payment, late fees, interest, and penalties build very fast because of which many people find themselves sunk in credit card debt, with no way out. Another big disadvantage is the hidden costs. There is the start-up fees and processing fees and also the annual fees, which is quite an amount. Finally, one of the most overlooked negative aspects to credit cards is the ease with which cardholders overspend. The psychology behind this is simple. You purchase items without ever exchanging actual money, so you don't get the feel of spending.

Summing up, as with anything, there are advantages and disadvantages of using credit cards. It is in the hands of the person using the card to make its advantages outstrip the disadvantages.

#### Plan followed

Intro: Advantages or disadvantages lie in the hands of the holder

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Para 4: More disadvantages

Conclusion:

Nowadays, people have a lot of pressure and stress. What are they? How to reduce them?

It is irrefutable that everyone in this fast paced world of today is suffering from some form of stress or the other. This essay intends to look into some major causes of stress in people's lives and suggest some ways to overcome it.

To begin with, there is a lot of stress in the workplace. Managers are expected to deal not only with their own pressure, but also with the pressure of the people they manage. There are some people who are being squeezed from above and below. And when people themselves feel pressurized, they often put additional pressure on their colleagues, which is their outlet of stress.

Not only at the workplace, there are stresses even at home. The demands of the children are rocketing in this era of consumerism. Inflation is going higher and higher. Children and teenagers have their own share of stress of this highly competitive era.

The solutions are not easy. There can never be one way of effectively dealing with pressure, since no two people are affected by stresses in the same way. One man's stress may be another person's excitement. And, of course, depending upon what else is going on in a person's life, what feels manageable one day, may feel overwhelming the next.

Fortunately, there are things one can do that help manage the pressure. To begin with, one should do a stress audit. By identifying what stresses which overwhelm you, you can look at prevention as well as cure. Secondly, one should set realistic goals. Trying to make big changes, usually results in failure and disappointment. By lowering your standards, you can create far more 'wins' for yourself, and 'wins' make us all feel great. Then, misunderstandings are another big cause of stress. Therefore, anything that improves communication or clears the air will reduce pressure.

To sum up, there are many causes of stress in people's lives today. But steps can be taken to manage it.

#### Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: Causes

Para 3: Solutions

Para 4: Solutions

Conclusion:

Some people think students in primary school / secondary school should be taught how to manage money because it is an important life skill. Do you agree or disagree?

It is irrefutable that in today's complex life, monetary skills are essential for people of all ages. I agree that financial management is a vital life skill and hence should be taught to primary and secondary school students. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The main advantage of incorporating financial planning at school level is that students have the opportunity to enter adulthood armed with a better understanding of how money works, and how to make it work for them. For example, individuals who start a business or even start a family require certain level of financial know-how to function efficiently. In addition, such proficiencies learned in school make young adults acquainted with superior budget planning strategies, thus increasing the chances of success by taking judicious decisions. Thus, it is understandable how knowledge about money can cater students towards an erudite adult life.

As well as providing a basis for future learning, early financial education can also be of benefit to primary school pupils in the shorter term. Young people are encountering money earlier and earlier in life. A survey conducted found that the average age at which children first have their own mobile phone is eight years, while the average age that children borrow a debit or credit card to purchase items online is just 10. So, today's children need to be money-savvy very soon and primary and secondary school years are the best to teach them all that. Moreover, this encourages them to wisely spend their funds, while making them realize the worth of all the facilities provided to them by their parents.

To conclude, financial planning classes at school level can help a lot in the short term as well as long term. Therefore these classes are an absolute must in school.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: advantages

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

| S.No. | Topic  | Date       | Place              | Old/New  |
|-------|--|------------|--------------------|----------|
| 1.    | Nowadays people are using more consumer goods like refrigerator or washing machine. Does this have more advantages or disadvantages?   | 5/12/2015  | India              | 192 AC   |
| 2.    | Some people say that the main purpose of television should be education, while other says it should be for entertainment only. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.   | 12/12/2015 | India              |          |
| 3.    | Many people agree that free public transportation should be available in most major cities. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this idea?  | 12/12/2015 | USA                | 342 AC   |
| 4.    | Nowadays many people have to work longer time and feel more stressed than before. What are the reasons for this? What can the employers do to make people's life easier?   | 5/12/2015  | China?             | 11       |
| 5.    | In some countries around the world men and women are having children late in life. What are the reasons for this development? What are the effects on society and family life?   | 5/12/2015  | USA                | 274 AC   |
| 6.    | Some developed countries have reduced the number of school hours. Is this a positive or a negative development?  | 5/12/2015  | Australia          |          |
| 7.    | Some people claim that family members are more important than friends; do you agree or disagree with this statement?   | 12/12/2015 | China?             | 209 AC S |
| 8.    | Today, majority of children are raised by their grandparents, due to the fact that their parents are busy working. To what extent do you think it affects the whole family?  | Nov        | India              | 29       |
| 9.    | Some people believe that old public buildings in the cities should be restored while others say that they should be demolished and new buildings should be built instead. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.                                | 3/12/2015  | India              | 248 AC   |
| 10.   | It is better to teach sports to young people at school as an alternative to playing computer games at home. Why is it important? Give your opinion and examples from your own experience.  | Nov        | Canada             |          |
| 11.   | Some people say that giving a smaller amount of money weekly to children will help them become more capable as they grow older. Do you agree or disagree?  | Nov        | India              | 37       |
| 12.   | It is a fact that people nowadays are under a lot of pressure and their lives are becoming increasingly stressful. What could be the possible reasons for this? What are some solutions to address this issue?                                     | Nov        | Australia          | 151      |
| 13.   | Some languages spoken by very few people are losing their importance and may become extinct completely. Is it a good or a bad development? What are the reasons for this?  | Nov        | India              | 57 AC S  |
| 14.   | Airline companies in many countries have reduced the cost of tickets. Discuss whether this is a positive or negative development. Give some examples based on your own experience.   | Oct<br>May | India<br>Australia | 70       |
| 15.   | In spite of technological developments in transportation, many people believe that bicycle is the best way to reach any destination. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using bicycle nowadays?  | 7/11/2015  | India              | 144 S    |
| 16.   | Many people say that the best way to keep fit is through health clubs and gyms. But other people say that ordinary everyday activities like brisk walking and climbing steps can be as effective as well. Discuss both ways and give your opinion. | 21/11/2015 | Singapore          | 338 AC   |
| 17.   | In many countries, children spend long hours on homework. Some people think less homework can reduce student's stress and give them a chance to develop other skills. What is your opinion about this?   | Nov<br>Jan | Australia          | New      |
| 18.   | Many students take part-time jobs while studying in university. Do you think it is a good idea or bad idea?  | Oct 2015   | Australia          | New      |
| 19.   | As communication technology develops people are interacting with each other in different ways. Does this trend have more   | Oct 2015   |                    | 163 AC   |

|     |   |            |           |         |
|-----|---|------------|-----------|---------|
|     | advantages or disadvantages?  |            |           |         |
| 20  | Most people take interviews to select a person for job. What are the other ways? What do you think is the best way to recruit new employees?  | Oct 2015   | India     |         |
| 21  | Large-scale shops are increasing and small-scale shops are decreasing. Is this a positive or a negative development?  | Oct 2015   | Australia | 63      |
| 22  | Some people think that children should receive formal training at school on how to be good parents in the future. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?   | Oct 2015   | India     |         |
| 23  | Nowadays young people prefer to move to big cities; older people, however, are the opposite and prefer to stay in the countryside. What are the positives and negatives of this trend?  | Oct        | USA       |         |
| 24  | Some people believe that watching TV is good and makes life more enjoyable. Others, however, feel that it is a waste of time. Do you agree or disagree? Give your own opinion.  | Sept. 2015 | US        |         |
| 25  | Some people believe that zoos where animals are kept in man-made environment should no longer exist in the 21st century. Do you agree or disagree?  | Sept       | India     | 109     |
| 26  | Some people think that uniform at school is unnecessary and should be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion and examples from your own experience.   | Sept       | Spain     | 107 S   |
| 27. | Many people strive to maintain a successful career and happy family life at the same time. What problems can this situation create? What are the possible solutions?  | Sept       | India     | 18      |
| 28. | Some people think visitors to others countries should imitate local customs and behaviours. Some people disagree; they think the host country should welcome cultural differences. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.                               | Sept       | Australia | 114 AC  |
| 29. | Nowadays we see more advertisements on the streets and on our TV screens. What are advantages and disadvantages of it?  | Sept       | Australia |         |
| 30. | Some people believe that young people bring more profits to a company. Others say that older people actually bring more profits. Discuss both views and give your opinion.  | Sept       | ?         |         |
| 31. | Many people believe that cooking is an essential life skill and should be taught to boys and girls in schools. Others disagree and believe it is a waste of school time. Discuss both views and give your opinion.  | Aug        | India     | 98/99 S |
| 32. | In most developed countries the average life expectancy is constantly increasing. Discuss the positive and negative aspects of this trend.  | Aug 2015   | India     | 42      |
| 33. | In some countries people prefer to live alone more often than in the past. Do you think this is a positive or a negative development? Why?  | Aug 2015   | India     | 146     |
| 34  | In the past people used to wear their traditional clothes depending on their culture. Nowadays the trend is changing and people wear different clothes. Is it a positive or negative development? How does it affect certain societies and people's behavior? | Aug 2015   | India     |         |
| 35  | Modern lifestyle has made it harder for people to live a healthy and active lifestyle. What are the causes of this situation? Suggest what can be done by the government and large organisations to improve it?   |            |           |         |
| 36  | Nowadays people are living longer and some believe that this can contribute to people's development. What are the causes of this change? Is it a positive or negative phenomenon?   | July       | India     |         |
| 37. | Nowadays plastic money replacements such as credit and debit cards are extremely popular, even more than banknotes and coins. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this. Include your personal opinion and examples based on your own experience.      |            |           | 150     |
| 38  | Some people think that managers alone should make decisions in the company, while others think that employees should be   |            |           |         |

|    |  |           |                 |                        |
|----|--|-----------|-----------------|------------------------|
|    | involved in the decision-making process too. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.   |           |                 |                        |
| 39 | In many countries around the world young people decide to leave their parents' home once they finish school. They start living on their own or sharing a home with friends. Do you agree or disagree with this approach? Give your opinion.  | June      | Venezuela       |                        |
| 40 | Some people think students in primary school / secondary school should be taught how to manage money because it is an important life skill. Do you agree or disagree?  |           | India           | 152                    |
| 41 | Some people think that schools do not do enough to teach young people about how to look after their health. To what extent do you agree or disagree?   | 30/4/2015 | Australia       | 52                     |
| 42 | Some people say that science study should be mandatory in schools, others argue that it is unnecessary. Discuss both views and give your opinion.  | May       | India           |                        |
| 43 | Nowadays, a lot of people are able to do their work from home. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this development.   | 30/4/2015 | India           | 312 AC                 |
| 44 | Do you think than physical activities should be introduced to school children on regular basis? Explain. What kind of sports are the most useful?  | 30/4/2015 | Canada          |                        |
| 45 | Nowadays, many families move overseas for job opportunities. Some people think this is beneficial for the children of these families, while others think children will find it difficult. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.  | 28/3/2015 | India           | 8                      |
| 46 | Should media networks such as newspaper publish people's private information?  | 9/5/2015  | Australia       |                        |
| 47 | Tourism has caused environmental problems in many parts of the world. What sort of problems has been caused and what can be done about them?   | 30/4/2015 | China           |                        |
| 48 | Young people say that traveling to different countries benefits them and the society. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.   | 18/4/2015 | USA             |                        |
| 49 | Many people think television is a good thing because it makes their lives more interesting and enjoyable. To what extent do you agree or disagree?   | 11/4/2015 | China           |                        |
| 50 | Which is more important - A high salary or job satisfaction?   | 28/3/2015 | China           |                        |
| 51 | Nowadays people like to use new electronic equipment. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?   | 9/5/2015  | ?               |                        |
| 52 | Many people are not as fit or as active as they used to be, and it is having long term effects on them. Why is this happening and what are some ways to solve this? OR<br>Nowadays many people have unhealthy diets and do not exercise regularly. Why is this happening? How can we encourage these people to live a healthy lifestyle? | 18/4/2015 | India and China |                        |
| 53 | Some people think it is better to travel by car in the city. Others, however, think traveling by bicycles is better. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.   | 14/3/2015 | India           |                        |
| 54 | Some people believe teenagers should concentrate on all school subjects, even ones they do not enjoy. Others, however, believe that teenagers should only focus on the subjects they are best at or find most interesting. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.   | 14/3/2015 | APAC            | 105 S                  |
| 55 | Some people say that popular tourist destinations are receiving bad effects from travelers. Why does this happen and what can be done to resolve this?   | 28/2/2015 | India           | 116                    |
| 56 | Nowadays, as a part of the educational process, students work at a company for a short period of time without pay. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?   | 28/2/2015 | APAC            |                        |
| 57 | Many people believe money is a very important factor for achieving happiness. Others, however, believe that money has nothing to do with happiness. Discuss both views and give your   | 7/2/2015  | India           | V similar to 112 & 113 |



|    |  |                         |                       |                  |
|----|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
|    | own opinion.   |                         |                       |                  |
| 58 | Computers have made our world a better place to live. Do you agree or disagree?  | 7/2/2015                | APAC                  | Similar to 131   |
| 59 | In many countries, children spend long hours on homework. Some people think less homework can reduce student's stress and give them a chance to develop other skills. What is your opinion about this?   | 29/1/2015<br>21/11/2015 | Australia<br>Pakistan | New              |
| 60 | Many people are following the latest fashion of clothing style and haircuts. Why are they influenced? Is this a good or bad development?   | 29/1/2015               | India                 | 136<br>v.similar |
| 61 | Some people say that in our modern age it is unnecessary to teach children about the skills of handwriting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?   | 10/1/2015               | AM                    | 87<br>Old        |
| 62 | Many people spend a lot of money on clothes, haircuts, and beauty products to enhance their appearance. Some people think that it is a good way to spend money, while others think that there is a better way to spend it. Discuss both views and give your opinion. | 10/1/2015<br>July       | Canada<br>Australia   | New              |
| 63 | Schools have a limited amount of money to spend. Some people suggest that it should be spent on good teachers, while others say it should be used for buying equipment like computers. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.                                 | 10/1/2015               | India                 | New              |
| 64 | The amount of garbage produced by our cities is a big problem for governments around the world. How can this problem be fixed?   | 10/1/2015               | APAC                  | New              |

## **2015 General Training IELTS Essays**

**Nowadays people are using more consumer goods like refrigerator or washing machine. Does this have more advantages or disadvantages?**

Today we belong to an era of materialism and everyone wants to have more and more in life. Things like a fridge, TV and washing machine were the luxuries of yesteryears, but have become the necessities of today. There are many advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon but the disadvantages definitely outweigh the advantages.

On the positive side, the quest for material possessions is what keeps the society going. People work hard to fulfil their needs and achieve their goals. It is people's right to own the comforts of life. Secondly, because of the demand for such things, the national economy is boosted. Manufacturing units provide round-the-clock employment to thousands of people to produce things in bulk. Someone has rightly said that, "Be glad that you're greedy; the national economy would collapse if you weren't." What is more, when demand is more and mass production is done, then the cost of the things is cut down and the consumer is ultimately benefitted.

On the downside, this is leading to stress and strain in the lives of people. People have become workaholics and are missing out on the joys of family and social life. Sometimes, people even adopt unethical means to get these things and this leads to crime and violence. There is no harm in owning things such as a car, TV or fridge, but things turn bad when this simple materialism turns into over-materialism and people start wanting a TV in each and every room of the house and a car per person of the family. Our neighbours have a triple storey house and there is a refrigerator on every floor just for their comfort. People fail to draw the line between necessity and indulgence and this creates all problems. They fail to realize that - "If you live for having it all, what you have is never going to be enough."

The most significant disadvantage of excessive materialism is on the environment. Manufacturers promote their products through ads and people are lured into buying new things even without need. It is a bitter truth that a society in which consumption is artificially stimulated in order to keep production going is a society founded on trash and waste, and such a society is a house built upon sand. For example, new models of TVs and refrigerators are introduced every other day and people just go and buy them even if they need those things or not. The disposal of old ones is adding to global litter and is destroying our environment.

To sum up, there is no harm if everyone wants to own a fridge and a washing machine, but it would be much better if we give importance to the word 'a' and instead of everyone the word should be every family.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: the disadvantages definitely outweigh the advantages

Para 1: Advantages of materialism

Para 2: Disadvantages of materialism

Para 3: Disadvantages of materialism

Conclusion: there is no harm if everyone wants to own a fridge, a TV and a car but it would be much better if we give importance to the word 'a' and instead of everyone the word should be every family

**Some people say that the main purpose of television should be education, while other says it should be for entertainment only. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.**

People are divided on the purposefulness of television. Some believe that TV should primarily be for education, whereas others opine that TV should be for entertainment. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, believe that television should equally fulfil the role of educator and entertainer.

Television has been given considerable importance in many countries as a source and a tool of teaching. Television is used for formal and non-formal education. To support formal education, television can be attached with school curriculum and time-tables. It can enhance quality in education and reduce dependence on verbal teaching and teachers. It can stimulate learning and give opportunity for mass education.

In non-formal education, television can directly or indirectly teach many things. Television benefits the masses by making them conscious of the environment, their rights, duties and privileges. It is a source of teaching etiquettes, language skills, hobbies, social relations and religious beliefs.

On the other hand, the role of television in entertainment is indubitable. As in this contemporary, busy world, majority of people lead a stressful life, and they require a sort of passive entertainment to feel relaxed. There are countless channels on TV providing entertainment in the form of soaps, video songs, movies, and game shows. Thus, every person irrespective of his age group can find something interesting to see on TV. Moreover, today smart TV is capable to record our favorite program, which we can enjoy in our free time. Same way, it also offers thousand of games to play.

I believe that TV is simultaneously doing both – entertainment and education. Even the daily soaps that we see have some social education. So the role of TV is overlapping as far as education and entertainment are concerned.

To sum up, television is equally meant for education and entertainment both. To use it solely for education or for entertainment would be wrong.

Plan followed

Intro: Equal role

Para 1: Role in education

Para 2: Role in education

Para 3: Role in entertainment

Conclusion:

**Many people agree that free public transportation should be available in most major cities. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this idea?**

Some people opine that the finest solution to urban traffic congestion is to provide free public transport round-the-clock. This essay intends to analyze the pros and cons of this approach.

Undoubtedly many people especially daily commuters would benefit from free public transport. But such a service would be a big burden on the governments, as it would require a lot of funds to maintain such free services. Moreover, a considerable proportion of these services would be wasted, as it would be underused on weekends and midnights. Therefore, it would not be practical on economical grounds to run free public transport.

There are plethora of means to solve the traffic problems. The most effective would be to encourage people to use public transport. This could be done by decreasing the fare, increasing the comfort and increasing the frequency of public transport. Obviously, if people do not have to waste time waiting for the bus or train, get comfortable seats and have to pay far less than what they would have to spend on their own personal vehicle, then they would willingly choose public transport and would not mind paying for it. So this step would prove better than giving a totally free public transport.

Additionally, the government could levy toll tax and increase the price of fuel to discourage people to use their own cars. Media could be used to aware people about simple measures like car-pooling. For instance if five people from one block of flats have to go to the same office, they could each take out their car for one day a week. This would be a win-win situation for the environment and the people.

To sum up, having a totally free public transport would not be practical to implement, as it would not be economically viable for the people. Therefore, it would not be the best method. The better methods would be to encourage people to use public transport by making it better.

#### Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Points for free public transport

Para 2: Points against and other better methods

Para 3: Better methods

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

**Nowadays many people have to work longer time and feel more stressed than before. What are the reasons for this? What can the employers do to make people's life easier?**

Stress is a big problem in today's workplace. While some stress is a normal part of the workplace, excessive stress can interfere with the employees' productivity and reduce their physical and emotional health. This essay shall delve into some causes of workplace stress and also suggest some steps that employers can take to reduce it.

There are a plethora of causes of stress in the workplace. To begin with, excessively high workloads, with unrealistic deadlines, makes people feel pressurized. Similarly, insufficient workloads, makes people feel that their skills are being underused and this too may cause stress. Then there may be a lack of interpersonal support or poor working relationships leading to a sense of isolation. Moreover, there may be times when people are asked to do a job for which they have insufficient experience or training.

Furthermore, stress can be caused by lack of job security, lack of career opportunities, or level of pay. It may also be caused by bullying, or harassment by management, which can leave employees feel undervalued and affect their self-esteem. Last but not least a poor physical working environment such as excessive heat, cold or noise, inadequate lighting, uncomfortable seating and malfunctioning equipment may also lead to stress.

Employers can take a lot of steps to cope with workplace-stress. To begin with, they should diagnose what is causing stress. If overwork is causing stress in the business, then they should try to reduce people's workload. They should ensure that their employees' targets are challenging, but realistic, and make sure that employees take their full holiday entitlement. They should check that individuals are well-matched to the jobs they've got. From time to time they should review people's performance so that they know how they're doing. Then they would be able to get feedback from their staff about potential problems and identify any training they may need.

Employers should also consider whether the employee should work fewer hours, or otherwise vary their work. If any of the employees is sick, they should keep in touch. If their employee has experienced personal problems, such as a relationship break-up or an illness in the family, employers should take a sympathetic approach and if necessary, enable and encourage the employee to seek further help through their doctor or a counseling service.

To sum up, stress at the workplace is an issue of great concern. Unless the employers take some steps to reduce the problem, it can reduce the efficiency of workers, which ultimately is detrimental for the company.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall delve into some causes of workplace stress and also suggest some steps that employers can take to reduce it.

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: solutions

Para 4: More solution

Conclusion:

**In some countries around the world men and women are having children late in life. What are the reasons for this development? What are the effects on society and family life?**

In the modern society, young people have a tendency of postponing their parenthood until late 30's or even early 40's. This essay shall deal with the reasons for this phenomenon and the effects this has on the families and societies.

Many factors could be responsible for this trend. The most important reason is that in today's era of cut-throat competition, young people have to focus on their jobs and therefore have little time for their families. What is more, women of today have become more career oriented and do not wish to be held back by family responsibilities. Obviously under such circumstance, committing to a serious relationship or starting a family, which means tremendous responsibility and dedication, is not a preferable choice. The cost increase of raising a child is another barrier to late parenthood, and this is especially obvious in major cities around the world.

This change of lifestyle can have some negative effects on the society as a whole. Firstly, low birthrates can result in an ageing population and a lack of labor force in the future. A graying society is a dependent society and is a burden on the shoulder of the government. Medical care services can be in high demand and medical cost can rise significantly.

The families too cannot escape the brunt of such a situation. The most disturbing effect is that chances of congenital anomalies rise significantly if a woman bears the first child after the age of 40. The families with mentally or physically challenged children can never be happy families. Another effect can be that the age gap between parents and children is too much and so chances of generation gap are strong.

*Summing up, there are many reasons, which are responsible for people marrying late and having babies late in life and this definitely is detrimental for the societies and families. Therefore, young people should learn to give importance to both, a career and a family life.*

**Plan followed:**

Intro: This essay shall deal with the reasons for this phenomenon and the effects this has on the families and societies.

Para 1: *Reasons*

- cut throat competition
- career oriented women
- cost of raising a child

Para 2: negative effects on society

Para 3: negative effects on families

Conclusion:

**Some developed countries have reduced the number of school hours. Is this a positive or a negative development?**

Shortening of the school day is a topic that has been debated a lot recently. There are advantages and disadvantages associated with shortening the school day, which shall be analysed in this essay. I believe it is largely a negative development.

On the downside, a shortened school day would reduce the amount of instructional time. For some laboratory classes reducing the number of minutes in class each day could have a detrimental impact. Shorter segments of instructional time might diminish the quality of instruction. Biology, chemistry, art, physical education and music classes all have the potential to be detrimentally affected.

Secondly, if the school day were shortened, the system might have to reduce the number of vacation days or add days at the beginning or end of the school year in order to satisfy the hours requirement. Finally, it would add to the stress of finding day care for after school hours for those parents who are working full time.

On the positive side, reducing the number of hours would allow extra time for students to participate in additional educational or vocational experiences. Students would have more time for an after-school job to provide supplemental income to lower income families. Students might also have the opportunity to participate in internships, perform community service, take advanced classes or investigate another activity that might broaden their intellectual horizons.

Furthermore, there may be some financial savings to the school as teachers would work fewer hours and therefore, would get less pay. The utilities, such as heating, air conditioning, electricity, of the actual school buildings would be used less and contribute to the savings. For example, the potential savings of shortening a school day 1.5 hours might result in a savings of 6 percent to 20 percent of the overall budget, depending upon buildings and staffing.

To sum up, shortening the school hours would have pros and cons, but the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Negative effects

Para 2: More disadvantages

Para 3: Advantages

Para 4: Advantages

Conclusion:

**Some people claim that family members are more important than friends; do you agree or disagree with this statement?**

Human development is a complex interplay of many factors. Some individuals are of the opinion that parents are more significant for children whereas others opine that friends have a more important role. It is necessary to look at both arguments before forming an opinion.

Parents have direct interactions with the children. They provide a sense of identification to the child. These have their greatest effect on intellectual development and character traits. They also play a very important role in the socializing process of the child. Right from the bed time stories to the behavioural habits parents play a very important role in making a child a responsible citizen. They know their child's temperament better than anyone else. They can provide critical input better than anyone else. That is why it is believed by some that parents have the strongest role in a child's development.

Friends, on the other hand, are important in order to help children grow emotionally and socially. Children find out who they are by comparing themselves to others. They learn about attitude, character and personality. Building good relationships boosts a child's self esteem and they find comfort in those friendships when things get tough such as losing a pet or facing family problems. Therefore, friendships are essential to assure children develop a healthy psyche. When kids are surrounded by friends or have one close friend, they have better self esteem, feel a sense of well being and experience fewer social problems.

In my opinion, we cannot generalize as to what has more significance. In the early years family generally has more impact but in adolescence friends may impact more. It appears that the power of the peer group becomes more important when the family relationships are not close or supportive. For example, if the parents work extra jobs and are largely unavailable, their children may turn to their peer group for emotional support.

To conclude, children are affected by many different factors such as parents, friends and environment. All these are inextricably linked in the development of children. There is individual variation and therefore it is difficult to generalize which factor plays the most significant role.

Plan followed

Intro: It is necessary to look at both arguments before forming an opinion

Para 1: Role of parents

Para 2: Role of friends

Para 3: your opinion

- younger children – parents more important
- Older children – friends more important
- If family ties are weak – friends more important

Conclusion: difficult to generalise

Both are important and individual variations are there



**Today, majority of children are raised by their grandparents due to the fact that their parents are busy working. To what extent do you think it affects the whole family?**

It is irrefutable that both parents are working nowadays and as a result children have to be raised by either maids or grandparents. Definitely, grandparents are better than any other option and this situation affects the family in both positive and negative ways, which I shall highlight in this essay.

On the positive side, looking after the grandchildren keeps the grandparents energetic and vibrant. Grandparents bathe, feed and even read books to the child. This leads to a sort of symbiotic relation in which both grandparents and grandchildren are benefited. In other words we can say that it is a win-win situation for both. Grandparents don't suffer from loneliness and depression, which is very common at that age, and children are also well looked after.

Moreover, such a situation encourages joint family system. Therefore, all the benefits of a joint family are there. There is security in the family as we all know that there is security in numbers. Another big advantage is that grandparents teach moral values to children. If grandparents do not look after children then parents use TVs as baby-sitters and children can become couch potatoes.

On the negative side, it is generally seen that grandparents are over-doting and, out of love, may pamper and spoil the grandchildren. Another disadvantage is that if there is not enough harmony between the parents and grandparents then it can lead to frustration and spoil the whole atmosphere of the house. In such cases children are the worst sufferers.

To conclude, it is very beneficial if grandparents look after their grandchildren. Both parents are free to pursue their careers, grandchildren learn moral values, are looked after well and grandparents enjoy themselves and don't suffer from loneliness and depression.

**Plan followed in the essay**

Intro: address the essay question appropriately.

Para 1: Advantages to grandparents and children

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion: it is very beneficial if grandparents look after their grandchildren.

**Some people believe that old public buildings in the cities should be restored while others say that they should be demolished and new buildings should be built instead. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.**

It has been a matter of intense debate for quite some time now as to what should be done with old buildings. Some opine that it is futile to spend money on their restoration and upkeep, while others want to see them restored to their old glory. I believe that those old buildings which are neither beautiful nor useful, should be demolished where as those buildings which add character to a place, give it a unique identity or have a historic significance should be repaired and restored at all costs.

There are many arguments in favour of demolishing old buildings. It is not very uncommon to hear news on TV that a building in a particular city crumbled killing a few people. Such buildings should be demolished even if they have an emotional value for the owners. The maintenance costs of such buildings, which are in a very bad shape, are much more than the cost of demolishing and building new ones instead.

What is more, the newer buildings could be made in such a way that they can accommodate more people in that much space. These buildings could also be made to be energy efficient by using newer technologies, which could save a lot of energy later on. For example, double glass panels could be used for insulation and the terraces could be made as to accommodate solar panels. All these measures are the need of the hour considering the rapidly occurring climate changes and the burgeoning population.

On the other hand, there are some old buildings, which give a unique identity to a place and with a little maintenance can be used effectively even today. For example, the Sainik School of Kapurthala was the home the maharaja of Kapurthala, Jagatjit Singh. It is a magnificent piece of architecture and is now serving a very good purpose. There are many other such buildings which house important government offices or have been converted to hotels for tourists. The Umedh Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, Rajasthan has been converted into a hotel and is a good source of revenue for the government. We would be losing a lot of our historical and cultural background if we demolish such buildings.

To summarise, the decision to preserve or demolish old buildings should be made after considering many factors. If the old building can be used effectively or be made into a tourist attraction or is giving a unique identity to a place, it should definitely be preserved. If a building is occupying a lot of space and is unfit to live in, then it should be demolished.

**Plan followed:**

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: arguments in favour of demolishing old buildings

Para 2: Advantages of newer buildings

Para 3: Advantages of restoration

Conclusion:

**It is better to teach sports to young people at school as an alternative to playing computer games at home. Why is it important? Give your opinion and examples from your own experience.**

I agree that it is advantageous for young people to do sports activities in school instead of playing computer games at home. I have several arguments to support my perspective, which I shall elaborate in the upcoming paragraphs.

To begin with, outdoor activities are good for the physical health of the child. Obviously, if a child is playing outside he/she will be a lot more active than the child that stays indoors. As it is childhood obesity is a serious problem and has to be tackled on a war footing. Children who do outdoor sports are less likely to suffer from this problem.

Secondly, outdoor activities are good for mental health. It has been proven by researches that by outdoor activities, the brain develops at a much faster rate than by playing indoors. Moreover, researchers have found a new disorder called 'Nature Deficit Disorder' seen in children who don't play outdoors. It has been seen that children who play outdoors are less stressed out with life. Not only do they become better learners, and do well in school, but they are much happier. All of this comes from just playing outside.

On the other hand, playing video games is also essential. These games introduce children to technology. They enhance critical thinking and improve visual and motor skills. They can be played indoors, when whether outside is not good. However, there should be a limit on these games because they are addicting and children forget everything else such as homework, when they start playing. These games are also isolating, as they are usually played alone.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that it is more beneficial for children to play outdoor sports in school than to play video games at home.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree

Para1: sports increase physical health

Para 2: Sports increase mental health

Para 3: Advantages of video games ending with disadvantages

Conclusion:

**Some people say that giving a smaller amount of money weekly to children will help them become more capable as they grow older. Do you agree or disagree?**

I definitely agree that providing children with a little amount of pocket money on a weekly basis is helpful to their development. In the following paragraphs, I shall put forth my arguments to support my views.

Firstly, giving children a small amount of money instills in them a sense of independence and responsibility towards spending the money the right way. They learn and understand that the amount of money is limited and they need to always choose between their various desires to ensure correct use of their pocket money. Children get into the habit of planned income and expenditure. They also learn about saving and budgeting. For e.g. if they want to buy a present for their mother's birthday, they will need to put aside some amount of money every month to collect the commensurate amount and buy the gift.

Secondly, parents who issue their children a minute weekly allowance encourage the development of their child's sense of responsibility. It makes them feel an important part of the family since they know that they get a part of the family's monthly income. Furthermore, giving your child a set amount every week can work out much cheaper in the long run provided you don't top it up with more money if your child runs out of money. Parents who don't give pocket money but buy children whatever they need would be surprised if they just total the amount they spend on their children's desires every week.

What is more, when children are given the independence to buy things themselves they become more aware of how much things cost, therefore they begin to see the value in the things they already have and other household items more clearly. They may start to treat the DVD player or PlayStation with a bit more respect, for example, and realize that with their limited money, they can't just run out to the shops and buy a new games console if the other one breaks. Giving pocket money to their kids saves a lot of time for grownups to buy small things for their children. They can utilize this time for other important tasks.

After analyzing how giving children a little cash on a weekly basis develops their financial comprehension and level of responsibility, it has been proven that this practice is more positive than negative. Thus, parents are encouraged to consider adopting this regime.

**Plan followed:**

Intro: Agree

Para1: 1<sup>st</sup> reason – learn and understand the value of money

Para 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> reason – encourage the development of a child's sense of responsibility.

3<sup>rd</sup> reason – can work out cheaper in the long run

Para 3: they begin to see the value of things they already have and other household items.

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

**It is a fact that people nowadays are under a lot of pressure and their lives are becoming increasingly stressful. What could be the possible reasons for this? What are some solutions to address this issue?**

It is irrefutable that everyone in this fast paced world of today is suffering from some form of stress or the other. This essay intends to look into some major causes of stress in people's lives and suggest some ways to overcome it.

To begin with, there is a lot of stress in the workplace. Managers are expected to deal not only with their own pressure, but also with the pressure of the people they manage. There are some people who are being squeezed from above and below. And when people themselves feel pressurized, they often put additional pressure on their colleagues, which is their outlet of stress.

Not only at the workplace, there are stresses even at home. The demands of the children are rocketing in this era of consumerism. Inflation is going higher and higher. Children and teenagers have their own share of stress of this highly competitive era.

The solutions are not easy. There can never be one way of effectively dealing with pressure, since no two people are affected by stresses in the same way. One man's stress may be another person's excitement. And, of course, depending upon what else is going on in a person's life, what feels manageable one day, may feel overwhelming the next.

Fortunately, there are things one can do that help manage the pressure. To begin with, one should do a stress audit. By identifying what stresses which overwhelm you, you can look at prevention as well as cure. Secondly, one should set realistic goals. Trying to make big changes, usually results in failure and disappointment. By lowering your standards, you can create far more 'wins' for yourself, and 'wins' make us all feel great. Then, misunderstandings are another big cause of stress. Therefore, anything that improves communication or clears the air will reduce pressure.

To sum up, there are many causes of stress in people's lives today. But steps can be taken to manage it.

#### Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: Causes

Para 3: Solutions

Para 4: Solutions

Conclusion:

**Some languages spoken by very few people are losing their importance and may become extinct completely. Is it a good or a bad development? What are the reasons for this?**

Today, we do not belong to a big planet called Earth. We are part of a global village and there is more interaction among people of different parts of the globe than ever before. Therefore, for easing communication, only those languages are surviving which are spoken by more number of people. This essay intends to analyze the reasons behind this phenomenon. This is both – a negative as well as a positive development.

On the positive side, the increasing use of some languages is easing communication among people. For example, English is now spoken in more than 86 countries of the world and French in around 33 countries. In fact, English has become the lingua franca in many parts of the world. Because of this people do not face difficulty when they travel from one country to the other. What is more, if people speak the same language then they also find it easy to do business with each other. Global trade is based on good communication. Businesses cannot flourish if for every small communication an interpreter is required.

Nowadays, we belong to a 24/7 society. Many multinational companies have opened in different parts of the world. The rich nations who own these MNCs provide jobs to millions of people worldwide. Naturally, a person who knows their language is better placed in these companies. The pay package is also better and chances to work abroad also go up. In a way the widespread use of a few languages also helps to decrease the gap between the rich and the poor.

On the other hand, the decline in use of some languages is also something to be concerned about. It is a well-known fact that language and culture are inter-related. If languages die out then culture also dies out. Moreover, we all enjoy life on this planet because of its diversity. If diversity decreases, then boredom sets in and the earth becomes a dull and boring place to live in.

To conclude, it could be said that, the increase in use of a few languages and the decline of others is both a positive as well as a negative development. This situation is an inevitable sequel of globalization. If the governments take steps to protect the endangered languages, then the negative effects can be minimized.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: It is both – a positive as well as a negative development

Para 1 – Advantages of the increasing use of a few languages

Para 2 – More advantages

Para 3 – Disadvantages

Conclusion: restate your opinion

**Airline companies in many countries have reduced the cost of tickets. Discuss whether this is a positive or negative development. Give some examples based on your own experience.**

In today's world, we are now in a position to enjoy cheaper air flights than in the past. It is both – a positive as well as negative development. It is advantageous in terms of freedom and the opportunities to learn from other countries. It is detrimental in terms of the pollution it creates.

Cheap air flight can be beneficial in many ways. One of them is the opportunity to go overseas. Earlier, only the affluent could afford it, but now it is within the pocket of the ordinary man. Some of the discounted tickets are fairly cheap and flying abroad is no longer a dream for many. Moreover, small businesses have prospered because of the ease of travel because of these flights.

In addition to this, cheap air flights enable intercultural exchanges between countries. The advent of cheap air-fare makes it possible for people the world over to travel regularly, regardless of the purpose of the trip. Therefore, people have the opportunities to learn from different cultures and have a better understanding of countries they used to be unfamiliar with. This, in turn, enhances cultural communications between countries.

On the other hand, it is generally known that aeroplanes consume a vast amount of oil and the gas emission generated by an airplane is enormous. Therefore, the environmental impacts would only get worse in the long run. Besides, cheap air tickets at times are extremely disturbing in terms of certain conditions that go along with them. One problem is that the date and time cannot be changed once purchased. As a result, many people find it inconvenient if they are to reschedule due to emergency.

To conclude, cheap air fares have both pros and cons. I am convinced that giving people the freedom to travel is essential, but at the same time people should be made aware of avoiding un-necessary travel.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: more benefits

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

**In spite of technological developments in transportation, many people believe that bicycle is the best way to reach any destination. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using bicycle nowadays?**

A bicycle is a mechanism that has transported man for many decades. Nowadays, many people use bicycle to move from one place to another in short distances. I believe that by riding a bicycle, people can decrease gasoline consumption, improve the quality of their lives, and protect the environment. This essay shall discuss the pros and cons of riding a bicycle in today's scenario.

The first benefit of using a bicycle for short distances is that you can cause a decrease of pollution. Because many people use their cars to move short distances, they increase the rates of pollution causing more pollution problems to our environment. That is why the use of a bicycle for short distances is a really good idea to help lower the rates of pollution.

The second benefit of using a bicycle for short distances is that you can help lower petrol or diesel consumption. If you use a bicycle or a car to move to a place that is near your home, you will decrease the petrol or diesel consumption of your car. This can save you a lot of money because the price of these fossil fuels is expensive. Maybe, it is the laziness of some people who use their cars to drive to places that are near their homes. However, this habit of driving causes an increase of gasoline consumption.

Finally, the most important benefit of riding a bicycle on short trips is that it can help you have good health. When you ride a bicycle, you use your legs to move, and this physical exercise is aerobic which means that your heart is pumping blood throughout your body, so it fortifies your heart, lungs, and other important parts of your body.

On the other hand, the disadvantages of riding a bicycle in the contemporary world cannot be denied. Heavy traffic has become the norm of the day and bicycle has become unsafe, especially where there are no separate lanes for bicycles. Moreover, it is more time consuming as compared to car or other forms of transport. Finally, if the weather is not favourable, it is impossible to ride a bicycle.

To sum up, these are some excellent reasons to ride a bicycle. I think that we need to make a distinction when it is better to use a car or a bicycle. We need to keep in mind that riding a bicycle will provide us with health and other benefits. That is why if we use a bicycle, it can improve the quality of life of the person who owns it.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro:

Para 1: First benefit - decrease of pollution

Para 2: Second benefit - save you a lot of money

Para 3: Final benefit – help you have good health

Para 4: Disadvantages

Conclusion:



**Many people say that the best way to keep fit is through health clubs and gyms. But other people say that ordinary everyday activities like brisk walking and climbing steps can be as effective as well. Discuss both ways and give your opinion.**

Nowadays, people are becoming more and more health conscious, more inclined to develop health through physical exercise. Many go to gymnasiums to work out using machineries, while others just maintain a physically active lifestyle walking and climbing stairs. This essay intends to discuss pros of both approaches.

There are many advantages of going to health clubs and gyms. The instructors in such places can guide you depending on your level of fitness and age. They make you warm up properly and then do the more vigorous or demanding exercises which reduce the risk of injury. A cool down after the work-out is almost as important as a warm-up, and this is all done very well in gyms and health clubs. A healthy and active lifestyle is not enough as all muscles are not worked out in that way.

Secondly, gyms and health clubs give you the motivation needed for such physical activity. Today's lifestyles are too sedentary and whatever walking or using the stairs we do, we cannot fulfil our body's needs of exercise. We also tend to take things easy and become too complacent regarding our health. When we go to the gyms, we see other people exercising over there which gives us the impetus to work-out. Finally, the equipments and the guided environment there make exercising easier. Perhaps that is the reason why there has been a mushroom growth of gyms in the past few years.

Some, on the other hand, find it impractical to take out time and go to a separate place to do physical exercise. They believe that health can be maintained by just grabbing simple day to day activities of physical activity. For instance, they walk over to short distances and briskly climb the staircase and avoid the elevator. This, in itself, has great advantages too. It saves the additional time and expenditure needed to go to gyms. Once we are habitual of these activities, they become a part of life.

After considering the pros of both approaches, I believe that routine physical activity, coupled with a day or two per week in the gym is ideal. One cannot depend on just routine physical activities. Joining a gym just for the weekends would make the weekends something to look forward to and one can focus on those muscles or areas of body which are not touched by simple day to day physical activity. So both approaches could play a complementary role with each other.

#### Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of gym

Para 2: More advantages of gym

Para 3: Advantages of routine day to day activities

Conclusion: Own opinion plus conclusion

**In many countries, children spend long hours on homework. Some people think less homework can reduce student's stress and give them a chance to develop other skills. What is your opinion about this?**

People have been deeply divided over the homework issue for a long time. On one hand there are the proponents of homework who talk of its benefits and efficacy, and on the other hand we have some individuals, who would like schools to adopt a no homework policy for students. The given statement, however, raises a concern about too much homework and says that homework should be light and non-stressful. I completely agree with the given notion.

On the one hand homework gives the chance for a student to learn lessons in a more comfortable environment. It helps to consolidate and clarify what was learned during the school day. It is an extension of classwork that allows students to achieve mastery of the content or skills to be learned. It reduces time for TV and video games and promotes good study habits. It teaches self-discipline and time management and above all, it lets parents see what their children are doing at school.

But, when the children are overburdened with homework, all the advantages of homework seem to fade away and the dark side becomes prominent. Too much homework reduces family time. Most parents have to work full time in order to support their family today. When they come home, they want to spend time with their children, but children are too busy in homework. It also prevents students from helping parents in household chores.

Moreover, students need time to relax, play and pursue sports and hobbies. Too much homework can make students too tired after a long day at school. It may also keep them up too late at night. What is more, homework is often meaningless busywork, which does not promote real learning. Therefore, care must be taken to ensure that homework is relevant and linked to vital learning objectives at all times. It must be designed to deepen students' understanding, and facilitate mastery of the material to be learned. Teachers should not overburden students with homework. There should always be reasonable homework timetables or schedules and homework should be age appropriate. It can range from one hour or a little less per night in the lower school, to three hours or a little more per night in the upper school.

To sum up, homework should be there, as it has many benefits, but it should be within reasonable limits and should promote real learning.

Plan followed:

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Advantages of homework

Para 2: Disadvantages of too much homework

Para 3: More disadvantages

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

**Many students take part-time jobs while studying in university. Do you think it is a good idea or bad idea?**

It is irrefutable that the cost of tertiary education has become very high and students have to work part time to fund their education. This situation has both positive and negative effects. In the following paragraphs, I shall discuss the issue in depth.

There are many reasons why working part-time is beneficial while studying in university. Firstly, higher education is very costly and students need to do part time work to fund their education. Secondly, the habit of working hard right from early years makes students realise the dignity of labour and they are better placed in life later on.

What is more, students do not indulge in any violence and crime and drugs. This is because they don't have time for such activities. This also instils some discipline in their lives because they have to manage time effectively so that their studies don't suffer. Finally, while doing these jobs, they develop a network of friends doing different courses and from diverse backgrounds.

It is a negative development because it leads to stress and strain. Sometimes, students cannot strike a balance between work and study, which may result in stress. Consequently, when students face failures or can't cope with the pressures they can have suicidal tendencies.

On balance, I believe that being pushed to hard work is a positive development. However, there should be a limit to the number of hours students are allowed part time work, otherwise studies will suffer.

**Plan followed**

Intro: situation has both positive and negative effects

Para 1: Why it is positive

Para 2: How it is a positive

Para 3: How it is a negative development

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

**As communication technology develops people are interacting with each other in different ways. Does this trend have more advantages or disadvantages?**

Technology has revolutionized the concept of communication. It has brought in the market many gadgets to facilitate communication. This has led to a considerable change in the type of relationships that people have and largely these changes have been positive although there is a downside to this phenomenon as well.

The most significant impact of technology on communication is that the speed of communication has increased manifold and the cost has been cut drastically. In the pre-information technology days, a document often required re-typing on the typewriter before the final version. Sending the letter across to someone else required a visit to the post office and a postage stamp. Faster methods such as telegrams had severe limitations in text, and remained costly. Computers and the internet have made easy the process of creating and editing documents and applying features such as spell check and grammar check automatically. Email allows sending the document to any part of the globe within seconds, making telegrams, and even ordinary letters mostly obsolete.

The accessibility of communication has also improved because of the low cost. Relationships have become better because people are connected to each other all the time and there is little chance of misunderstanding because of communication gap. Finally, technologies such as the internet help spread the net of communication by tracking down old friends, shedding light on new business opportunities, and the like.

On the downside, the possibility of high quality communication from anywhere in the world to anywhere else at low costs has led to a marked decline in face-to-face communications and to an increased reliance on electronic mediums. Communication has become concise and short, and the adage "brevity is the soul of wit" finds widespread implementation, though unintentionally. The small keyboards in mobile phone and other hand held devices that make typing difficult has resulted in a radical shortening of words and increasing use of symbol and shortcuts, with little or no adherence to traditional grammatical rules.

Summing up, as every garden has weeds, similarly the effect of technology on communication has a downside. Overall the positive effects far outweigh the negative effects.

**Plan followed**

Intro: these changes have been positive although there are some negative changes also

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: Advantages

Para 3: Negative side

Conclusion: Overall the positive effects far outweigh the negative

**Most people take interviews to select a person for job. What are the other ways? What do you think is the best way to recruit new employees?**

Recruiting new employees can be a long and painful process. The success of any business or organisation depends on the quality of its staff. Some employers conduct interviews to select new workers. However, there are various other approaches. This essay intends to analyze methods of hiring new employees and pick out the best one.

Undoubtedly, an interview is an important method of recruitment. If selection has to be done merely on an interview, then the interview has to be well executed. It requires a detailed understanding of the organizational needs as well as a careful grasp of the prospective employees' responses. It is not an easy task. If the recruitment is small scale and only a few employees are needed, it can prove fruitful otherwise alternative methods to hire have to be taken into account.

There are many other methods, which can be employed to hire new personnel. These hiring methods are a combination of several step-by-step tests. Initially, job vacancies are advertised, after which the recruiters select resumes, which meet the basic requirements for that particular job position. Then the written test is conducted to judge the skills and knowledge of the person. This is followed by group discussions and some other skill tests. Then the shortlisted candidates are interviewed. After this, background checks and reference checks are done of those shortlisted after the interview. It is important to check the credit record and criminal record. The reference checks are done to ascertain the authenticity of what is written in the resume. Finally, the selected candidates are sent for a health check to rule out any communicable diseases.

Analyzing the above mentioned methods it can be seen that no single method is perfect. Each job has its own requirements. Some jobs require qualification and some require experience. Big companies have a department devoted to human resources, which takes care of the hiring issues, but for small businesses finding the right employees at the right times can be an especially time-consuming and frustrating struggle. External recruitment agencies can be assigned the task of searching suitable candidates for jobs, but it may be very expensive. However, I believe that spending on the recruitment of new employees can prove to be a good investment, as good employees can breathe new life into your business.

To sum up, finding suitable employees is an arduous task and has to be a combination of written tests, group discussions, interviews and reference checks.

**Plan followed:**

Intro:

Para 1: Importance of interviews

Para 2: Other methods

Para 3: More methods and own opinion

Conclusion:

**Large-scale shops are increasing and small-scale shops are decreasing. Is this a positive or a negative development?**

Commercialization has grown rapidly in the modern era. Consequently, there is a mushroom growth of big shopping malls. As every garden has weeds, this phenomenon also has its pros and cons. On the whole, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

There are many advantages of big stores. To begin with, they save our time. We do not have to waste time going from one small shop to the other. Secondly, these stores offer a huge variety of goods. For example, in some stores you can buy anything ranging from a sewing needle to a car.

Furthermore, such stores purchase items in bulk and so they can afford to sell the products at a lower price than the other small retailers and therefore the customers are benefited. To add to it, they sell mostly the branded products and so the quality is assured. Another advantage is that most of such stores accept credit cards and so you don't have to carry heavy chunks of cash.

On the downside, such malls promote consumerism. They pull the customers through attractive displays and schemes and as a result customers end up buying more than they need. Moreover, such shops are opened with huge investments. So they can withstand adverse market conditions for a long time. Because of this the small retailers and vendors are finding it difficult to cope with them.

To conclude, big shopping malls are definitely an asset to the customer and society despite their drawbacks.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This can be seen as both – a positive as well as a negative development. Para 1:

On the positive side,

Para 2: More positives

Para 3: Negatives

Conclusion: Shopping malls are definitely an asset to the customer and society despite their drawbacks.

**Some people think that children should receive formal training at school on how to be good parents in the future. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?**

Children represent both the present and the future. In recent years, childcare has gained as much importance as any other subject of academic studies. Traditional childcare skills, which are passed on from one generation to another through oral and informal instruction, are not sufficient to guarantee quality care, so some people opine that childcare should be added as a subject in schools. I, however, do not agree with this notion.

Those who advocate childcare courses in schools say that childcare is not a simple process of feeding children, changing diapers and making them sleep regularly. Contemporary childcare is much more than all this. Childcare is a complex science that goes beyond nutrition. It involves the physical and emotional well-being of children. With the changing times and changing family structure, childcare-training courses should be the norm for all.

However, adding childcare as a subject in schools would add to the burden of children as well as schools. The children of today are already burdened with tough academic competition. Their school bags are at times heavier than their own weight. Moreover, teaching childcare would not register in their minds at that tender age, when they are themselves children. I believe that would be taking away some of their childhood.

Another argument which goes against childcare as a subject is that nowadays, youngsters are very career conscious and are marrying late and having children late in life. They plan to have children when they are prepared for the added responsibility. At that time they are mature enough to face the challenge of parenthood. Finally, what may be a good parenting strategy today, may not seem right by the time they become parents. Times are changing very fast, as we all know. So such classes are not needed.

To summarise, successful childcare is a challenge. Children's healthy development is measured not only by physical wellbeing but also by growth in other dimensions. However, adding this as a subject is not a practical idea.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Arguments of those who advocate such courses in schools

Para 2: Arguments against

Para 3: More arguments against

Conclusion

**Nowadays young people prefer to move to big cities; older people, however, are the opposite and prefer to stay in the countryside. What are the positives and negatives of this trend?**

Rural ageing, or in other words more elderly in the rural areas has become very common almost everywhere in the world as the young move to the cities in search of better opportunities. This essay intends to analyze the pros and cons of this demographic shift. I believe that the demerits of such a situation are more.

The advantages to the young to move to cities are obvious. Cities are full of opportunities for the young. Job vacancies can be filled. Economic growth can be sustained. The pension gaps can be filled by the contributions of new young workers and they also pay taxes.

Similarly, the elderly who don't migrate to cities are at an advantage. Ageing in the rural setup is healthier than ageing in the urban areas. For instance in a recent survey, 70% of the elderly in rural areas reported their health as good as compared to only 52% in the cities. Then, there are strong social networks in rural areas, where life is comparatively slower. Also there is a strong sense of attachment to the place. The elderly feel more comfortable in familiar environment.

On the other hand, this urban migration of the young is challenging for the youth. The young migrants may be exploited as increasing competition may make them willing to work for low pay. Increase in urban population may put pressure on resources. Unemployment may arise if there is unrestricted number of workers.

Furthermore, the rural areas may face economic disadvantage, as there are fewer young workers. Agricultural production would suffer and there would be reduced family support for the elderly. In such a situation, additional pressure would fall on the governments.

To sum up, young people moving to cities and elderly staying behind in villages would have both positive and negative effects. Concrete steps have to be taken by the governments to ameliorate the negative effects.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: advantages to the young

Para 2: Advantages to the elderly

Para 3: Disadvantages to the young

Para 4: Disadvantages to the elderly

Conclusion:



**Some people believe that watching TV is good and makes life more enjoyable. Others, however, feel that it is a waste of time. Do you agree or disagree? Give your own opinion.**

Some individuals opine that TV adds joy and fun to our lives, whereas others believe that it is a total waste of time. In my opinion, both perspectives have some element of truth in them. TV is our source of happiness, but only if we know where to draw the line. Otherwise, it can eat away all our leisure time and we would miss out on many other things, which could bring us greater joy than this idiot box.

On the one hand, the usefulness of TV in entertaining us cannot be denied. There is a huge variety of TV shows available. It is a nice way to relax after a busy day; it keeps us up-to-date with what is going on all around, and it can also be very educational. It is very good for the elderly to pass their time. Watching TV can be coupled with some other task such as walking on the treadmill. In all these ways, TV has enriched our lives.

On the other hand, TV has destroyed social interaction. In a recent survey it was seen that an average person watches approximately 3 hours of TV per day, which accounts for more than half the leisure time in a 24-hour day. More productive things could be done in that time, such as playing with other children, reading books, doing homework and so on.

Another reason, which goes against TV viewing is that some of the shows that teenagers watch are very negative and destructive to their mind. On top of that, many youngsters have started developing unhealthy habits in front of the TV. Snacking while watching TV is very common and these things make people obese and lazy. It has been proven that the more time a person spends sitting in life, the sooner he is going to die. Being active is one of the most important necessities of a person's body. Leisure time we have is limited, so the onus is on us not to waste it on wasteful TV viewing.

To sum up, watching TV is good entertainment, But if we don't limit our TV viewing time, it can prove to be a sheer wastage of time.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: How TV is entertaining

Para 2: How it is a waste of time

Para 3: How it is a waste of time

Conclusion:

**Some people believe that zoos where animals are kept in man-made environment should no longer exist in the 21st century. Do you agree or disagree?**

I agree that there is no place for zoos in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I feel that zoos are an unsuitable environment for animals, and therefore should be abolished. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Firstly, zoo animals are kept in very confined areas compared with their vast natural habitat. Due to this zoo animals develop unnatural habits like pacing back and forth or swaying from side to side. For example, polar bears are given about 10 metres of walking space, where as in their arctic home they roam for hundreds of kilometers. Similarly, lions and tigers are confined in cages where they lack exercise and stimulation. What is more, it is very common for visitors to tease and provoke caged animals. This also leads to unnatural behavior in animals.

Secondly, the breeding programmes taken up by zoos are not very successful. For instance, the 'Panda Breeding Programme' has been very costly and unsuccessful. Also, zoo life does not prepare animals for the challenges of life in the wild. They are provided good food in the zoos, but if left in the jungle, they may die of starvation because they cannot hunt for themselves.

Finally, the zoo is an unnatural environment that exposes animals to many dangers. Diseases often spread between species that would never live together naturally. For example, many Asian elephants have died in African zoos after catching herpes from African elephants.

To sum up, I would like to reiterate my opinion that zoos are unnatural habitats for the wild animals and there is no justification in caging these marvelous creatures of God. It is not true to say that zoos are educational or that they help to save endangered species. In reality they only teach us how wild animals behave when they are cramped in small spaces. Breeding programmes provide zoos with good publicity, but in fact most of them are failures. Finally, zoo animals are more at risk of dying from disease or injury than their wild counterparts. It is time we abolish these cruel institutions.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree – means that you are against zoos

Para 1: Reasons why zoos are not good

Para 2: more reasons

Para 3: more reasons

Conclusion:

**Some people think that uniform at school is unnecessary and should be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion and examples from your own experience.**

Schools uniforms are mandatory in most of the schools, but some students dislike wearing uniforms. Therefore some people opine that uniform should not be there in schools. I, however, oppose such a notion. I firmly believe that uniforms should be compulsory in schools.

To begin with, uniforms give a sense of identity to the school. It instills a sense of discipline in them. The students feel that they belong to the school. Every student of the school feels like part of a bigger group. Secondly, uniform is a social leveler, where pupils are drawn from a wide cross-section of society. A uniform finishes these differences and thus reduces the gap between the rich and the poor. The teachers also tend to treat all students equally when they are in the same uniform.

Another big advantage is that if students play truant and bunk school, they can be easily identified. Finally, the uniform provides security. For example, if some miscreants come in the school, they can be easily spotted from afar. Even on school excursions, it is easier for the teachers to manage if all students are in same uniform.

There are people who oppose having a school uniform. They say that uniform is unattractive and old fashioned. They believe that students can express themselves better through their clothes and should be given the chance to show their individuality. Wearing a uniform created an opposite effect. I still believe that if schools started running without a school uniform, there would be utter chaos in the classrooms.

To sum up, school uniform should be retained in all circumstances. Students should not be given the liberty to wear clothes of their own choice. Uniforms can be modernized and changed according to circumstances but a uniform is a critical aspect of education.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: uniforms should be compulsory

Para 1: Advantages of uniforms

Para 2: More advantages of uniforms

Para 3: Why some people oppose uniform

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

**Many people strive to maintain a successful career and happy family life at the same time. What problems can this situation create? What are the possible solutions?**

It is undeniable that everyone dreams to have both - a prosperous career and a contented family. However, there seem to be a lot of problems preventing people from achieving that goal. This essay shall discuss these problems and suggest some solutions.

The first problem is that today's world is ruled by money and so people devote a lot of time to their work or business. They have become workaholics. As a result, they fail to draw a line between work and family. Second reason is the cut-throat competition of today. Young people, new to their job have to put in their time and effort to meet the expectations of their employers. Similarly, those who run their own businesses have to drive their business otherwise their business can drive them out. Another problem is that the family expectations are soaring higher and higher day by day. The earning hand is expected to fulfil all those expectations as well as give time to his family. Sometimes, it becomes difficult to live up to those expectations and this leads to stress.

The solutions are not simple. People have to learn to set their priorities. Some things have to be sacrificed for the sake of others. Effective time management is very important. The most severe problem existing among most people tends to be their unsuccessful time management. Then, people should learn to switch the office button off, once they come home. Practicing some exercise regime for a few minutes every day can keep a person physically fit enough to have a successful work-life balance.

The non-working members of the families too can help in this respect. They should try to support, to care and to understand the efforts that others are making. One meal of the day should be fixed which all members have to have together. A more practical way to be considered might be setting up family plans, for example, a monthly family trip or weekly picnic, to share some happy time and memories together.

Summing up, I believe that with a mutual understanding of each other and continuous efforts, people will eventually find the balance point of their life and work.

**Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall discuss these problems and suggest some solutions.

Para 1: Problems

Para 2: Solutions

Para 3: More solutions

Conclusion:

**Some people think visitors to others countries should imitate local customs and behaviours. Some people disagree; they think the host country should welcome cultural differences. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.**

Today, with the passage of time each and every country is on the path of development, and with this development there is a growing trend of visiting different places in different countries. It is a highly debated issue whether tourists should do and behave as the people of the host country or should the host country accept visitors as they are. Both situations have their own pros and cons, which I shall discuss in this essay.

There are many benefits of adopting host countries customs. Firstly, it decreases chances of misunderstanding and embarrassment. For e.g. in the UK it is offensive to ask about pay to anyone, which is common in India. Secondly, a nation's customs and traditions are fascinating and offer a deep insight into that country. People visit other countries to broaden their horizon. So, if tourists copy the customs of host country, they learn more about them and that too in an interesting way. Finally, visitors establish a rapport with local people because people feel respected when their customs are understood and imitated. The visitors become a member of the host country and so they don't suffer any culture shock.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why a host country should tolerate and embrace foreign culture. To begin with, no country should cling to its own customs and traditions and accept the new customs and traditions brought by visitors. Secondly, there should be no binding on the visitors to adopt the customs and traditions of the hosts. For example, if the visitors are pure vegetarians, they should not be forced to eat non-vegetarian food just because the host country's people eat that.

On balance, I feel that someone who is moving to another country should respect the customs, culture, traditions etc. of that country. This is necessary because a newcomer is like a guest in someone else's home. So he is expected to follow the rules of that country. However, it is not reasonable to compel a believer of certain religion to ignore his religion in order to comply with the local customs.

Summing up, mutual understanding between both the visitor and the host is necessary to maintain harmony. A cosmopolitan society in which everyone is tolerant of each other's customs and traditions is the need of the day. After all, today, we are part of a small global village and not a big planet Earth.

#### Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: benefits of adopting host countries customs

Para 2: reasons why a host country should tolerate and embrace foreign culture

Para 3: Own view

Conclusion:

**Nowadays we see more advertisements on the streets and on our TV screens. What are advantages and disadvantages of it?**

Advertising is a powerful and persuasive medium and advertisements have become a part of our lives. Advertisements have both positive and negative effects, which shall be discussed in the following paragraphs.

On the positive side ads tell us about the new products that are launched in the market. They also tell us about the working of these products. After seeing the ads, consumers can go to the market and select things of their choice. What is more, the advertising industry provides jobs to many.

Furthermore, advertisements touch social issues. For example, when Amitabh Bachhan tells people to bring their children for pulse polio immunization, people listen. Then there are ads against female foeticide which are very informative. Advertisements also teach a lot about the country from where the ads come. This is because through satellite TV we can see ads from all over the world. When we see a Japanese advert of a lady in a kimono, we come to know about the clothes of Japan.

However, Adverts also have a downside. There are many advertisements which make many false claims about their products. For example, I recently bought a floor cleaner which claimed to remove rust stains from floor effortlessly but when I used it in my kitchen, the rust stains did not go at all. It also goes without saying that when businesses hire celebs to endorse their products then definitely they have to pay them exorbitant amounts of money and all this increases the cost of the product.

Furthermore, advertisements can cause people to be dissatisfied with what they already have and make them want more. Being exposed again and again to products which one cannot afford leads to dissatisfaction. Furthermore, not all parents are in the position to afford the goods, which the children see advertised and want to possess. This often leads to feelings of inadequacy among them. In addition to this advertisements lead to materialism and people lay too much emphasis on material goods. People are prepared to work long hours or even turn to crime to get these goods.

To conclude, adverts have pros and cons. Without adverts we would lose a valuable source of revenue, which is used for the benefit of majority. Our lives would be dull without these ads.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of ads

Para 2: Advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Para 4: Disadvantages

Conclusion

**Some people believe that young people bring more profits to a company. Others say that older people actually bring more profits. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

In this world of ever-changing technology and fast-paced innovations in the business world, it has become a much-debated issue whether the younger employees are more productive or the older ones. Some people are of the opinion that the tech-savvy youth make an organization more profitable and others opine that the experienced older employees are more important. I, however, believe that a combination of the creativity and innovation of the younger workers along with the wisdom and experience of the older employees would lead to the success of any company.

There are many benefits of hiring young workers. They are energetic, creative and bring new innovative ideas with them, which are very important factors of making any business successful in this age of competition. They are more efficient and productive, because of their energy and enthusiasm. Younger people are also more suitable for the jobs, which require more physical work and are labor-intensive, like construction work. Providing more job opportunities to the youth also helps solving the unemployment problem.

The importance of having older and experienced employees cannot be denied. They have the knowledge and skills, which the younger employees will take years to attain. There are certain work areas, which deal with confidential information that cannot be shared with a newly hired person. A manager would be more comfortable dealing with an older, loyal employee, when it comes to sensitive or confidential work-related information. It has been rightly said, "a new broom sweeps clean, but an old broom knows all the corners". So, an older employee would know the ins and outs of the work, whereas, a company might need to spend resources on training and induction of a new inexperienced, younger employee.

In my opinion, for any business or company to be successful, both innovation and experience play an indispensable role. The loyalty, trust and experience of the older employees are as important as the new ideas, creativity and enthusiasm of the younger employees. The younger and older employees are like the wheels of a car. If even one of the wheels is missing, we cannot drive the car.

To recapitulate, it can be said that we cannot choose between youngsters and older employees. There should be a right balance of both for any work or business to be successful.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: benefits of young workers

Para 2: Benefits of older workers

Para 3: Own opinion- combination of both

Conclusion

**Many people believe that cooking is an essential life skill and should be taught to boys and girls in schools. Others disagree and believe it is a waste of school time. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

People are divided on the issue of teaching cooking in schools. Some say that cooking is a valuable skill and should be taught as a subject in schools. Others are opposed to it. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

To begin with, today children are already burdened with many academic subjects. Today's child does not have to compete with children of his country, but with children of this shrunken planet, this global village. Adding another subject like cooking is not at all wise. What is more, cooking is something which children can learn as and when the need arises. Today, the technology is so advanced that if you need any recipe, just search on the Internet and even the detailed videos are available. There is no need to waste precious schooldays on this skill.

Secondly, cooking is not a theoretical subject; it has more of a practical component. It would, therefore, be a big burden on the infrastructure of the schools to provide kitchen laboratories. What is more, children could suffer injuries while working in these school kitchens. Finally cooking is something which one keeps learning while doing throughout life. Therefore, there is no need to incorporate this subject in the school curricula.

Proponents of having cooking as a subject say that today children belong to nuclear families and in most cases both parents are working. If children know cooking, they can cook for themselves in times of need. Secondly, today many students go abroad for their higher education. There they would not face any food problem if they have culinary skills. Another big advantage would be that children would also know the value of healthy ingredients of food. Definitely, they would refrain from eating too much fast food.

To conclude, there is no doubt that home cooking is a disappearing skill in many countries, even then it would not be advisable to add it as a subject in schools.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Why not have it as a subject

Para 2: More reasons

Para 3: Reasons for having it as a subject

Conclusion:



**In most developed countries the average life expectancy is constantly increasing. Discuss the positive and negative aspects of this trend.**

Demographic trends show that we are heading for a graying society. The proportion of the old people is much more than the young. This essay shall look into the pros and cons of this trend.

This trend is creating many problems for the society. To begin with, more and more people who care for the elderly are needed. What is more, there is need for building more old people's homes and other care units. Another problem is that the government must spend more money on pensions. This is further complicated by the fact that there are lesser number of young people who have jobs and pay taxes. To add to it, more and more people have to work up to 65 and longer. They take away jobs that young adults need. Finally, an older labor force means that we are not as flexible and productive as countries that have young workers.

This trend has disadvantages for the old people themselves. As the people grow old, they go on becoming weaker and weaker and have to depend on their families to fulfill their needs. The families may get tired of their responsibilities in the long run. There would be a wider generation gap, and the old generation would get a culture shock. Moreover, they might get bored of living such a long life as there would be no goals for them.

On the other hand there are some merits of such situation. The societies would be relatively stable with lesser crime and violence. Moreover, it would be good for people who want to see their great grand-children. Old generation would be able to share more experiences with young generations, so the youth would benefit. The families would get good support of elders and would be able to keep their culture and traditions alive for a longer time. One would get a chance to see frequent changes in technology and lifestyle and enjoy a life full of comforts for more years.

To conclude, although the graying society has more demerits in terms of pressure on the governments, the ageing of the population should be seen as a transition not a crisis, with opportunities as well as challenges in society's response to the ageing question. The main challenge is to promote healthy and productive ageing and to adjust societal practices and structures to include older people as contributors to society.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Balanced intro as it is a discuss question

Para 1: problems for society

Para 2: disadvantages for the old people themselves

Para 3: merits of such situation

Conclusion: the ageing of the population should be seen with opportunities as well as challenges.

**In some countries people prefer to live alone more often than in the past. Do you think this is a positive or a negative development? Why?**

In the modern society, young people prefer to stay apart from their parents and live on their own in big cities. This situation has both – advantages as well as disadvantages. Personally, I believe that the cons outweigh the pros.

This independent lifestyle has some reasons. In this scenario, the young people have more freedom which allows them to do what they find interesting and worthwhile which their parents may not like. The older generation may hold their traditional way of life or values which may be rejected by the younger one. On top of the generation gap, nuclear family allows career pursuits which require much dedication including time, energy and concentration. This is not possible while living in joint or extended families as the older members in joint families also require time and looking after. Therefore, to achieve the dream of success, young people leave their hometown and their family and rush alone into major cities where more chances of career success can be expected.

However, this modern lifestyle can have some negative effects on individuals and the society as a whole. Firstly, the young people are disconnected with their families and original community and hence are losing traditional values and cultures, and are being assimilated by globally popular culture. Moreover, living alone without long term and stable relationships is widely thought to be associated with the lack of personal sense of happiness and the increase of sense of isolation, which could reduce an individual's general satisfaction with life.

In the joint families, the children and the grandparents enjoyed a symbiotic relationship which was a win-win situation for both. The grandparents were there to keep a watchful eye on their grandchildren and the grandchildren enjoyed the stories told by their grandparents who had all the time in the world for them. Nowadays the children are left unattended and have chances of falling into bad company and going astray. The elderly are also left alone when they need the company of their near and dear ones the most.

To sum up, living alone or in small family units in big cities is good for the pursuit of career and for an interference free life but it has serious disadvantages. Man is after all a social animal and needs the comfort and support of his nears and dears in tough times. It is time to realise the positives of the joint and extended family system to lead a life of happiness in the long run. A Chinese proverb has rightly pointed out that – ‘In times of test, family is best’.

**Plan followed:**

Intro: This situation has both – advantages as well as disadvantages.

Para 1: Advantages of living alone and nuclear families

Para 2: Disadvantages of living alone and nuclear families

Para 3: Disadvantages of living alone and nuclear families

Conclusion:

**In the past people used to wear their traditional clothes depending on their culture. Nowadays the trend is changing and people wear different clothes. Is it a positive or negative development? How does it affect certain societies and people's behavior?**

The global era of today is all about choices. People are aware of fashions all over the world, and are adopting whatever suits their fancy. This phenomenon is largely positive, although there is a downside to it as well. This essay intends to analyze the pros and cons of this change and also discuss its impact on certain societies and people's conduct.

On the one hand, such an attitude is bound to erode the cultural identity of nations. Many nations are known by their national dress. For instance, 'sari' is the national dress of India and 'kimono' is the national dress of Japan. These dresses are also linked to certain customs and traditions. If these attires are lost, the customs and traditions will also be lost.

On the other hand, there are countless advantages of this trend. People adopt things which they find comfortable and which suit their pocket. If jeans and T-shirts are comfortable, people will wear them. Such clothes are easier on the pocket too. For instance, two pairs of jeans and a few T-shirts are enough for the whole year. The traditional clothes like suits and saris are noticeable when worn repeatedly. So, a huge collection is needed. Finally, wearing clothes according to the latest fashion makes people feel more confident as they are portraying that they are up-to-date.

There are noticeable influences of globally similar clothing on people and societies. When people of global communities look similar, they find it easier to accept each other. It leads to better harmony among people. People feel united and work together for uplifting the global communities. People feel part of a global village and it makes them feel more confident.

In my opinion, wearing clothes, which are comfortable and make you feel confident and happy, is better and needed in today's fast paced life. I don't believe that not wearing traditional clothes takes you away from your traditions and culture. Traditions and culture are deep rooted and can never fade away with the clothes we wear. On our festivals and cultural events, our traditional clothes are still very conspicuous.

To sum up, people are following fashion in clothing according to the times, and it is certainly a positive trend.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Disadvantages

Para 2: Advantages

Para 3: Effect on individuals and societies

Para 4: Own opinion

Conclusion:

**Modern lifestyle has made it harder for people to live a healthy and active lifestyle. What are the causes of this situation? Suggest what can be done by the government and large organisations to improve it?**

Modern man is an unhealthy man. Today, people have to spend wealth to buy health. All thanks to the modern lifestyle. This essay intends to analyse the reasons why people's lifestyle is unhealthy and suggest ways to alleviate the problem.

One of the major causes of this unhealthy and inactive lifestyle is the highly competitive work culture. With working hours going upto 14, cut-throat competition, hire and fire culture, target-based pays, insecurities and excessive availability of manpower, every employee finds himself tied only to the office chair. Consequently, his health gets compromised. It is apt to mention here that the growing materialism in this capitalist world is adding to the travails of the modern man. High living standards, higher cost of living, dreams for luxuries and more money are only adding to the problem.

Furthermore, gadgets and machines that were intended to help the mankind have also chained him and made him sedentary. Even children are glued to gadgets. Adults have professional requirements for the gadgets, but children no longer play in the open. These unhealthy habits develop inadvertently and continue to adulthood.

However, there is some hope. Large organisations must start considering humans as an asset and not a liability. They must be treated humanely and not like machines. Rest hours, weekly offs, fixed per-day work schedules, incentives to efficient workers, training to keep fit, awareness campaigns and special awards for the fittest employees should be incorporated to improve the unhealthy and inactive lifestyles of employees.

As far as the governments are concerned, they must stop focusing on Gross National Product Index and start focusing on Gross National Happiness levels, which include sustainable development, health and happiness levels of citizens, education and environment conditions. Moreover, easily accessible parks and gyms should be open to public for free. Children shouldn't be confined to books only, but play outdoor games. Unhealthy youth should be fined if they don't get fit and junk foods should be taxed more to discourage their sale.

To recapitulate, it can be said that health is a choice. It doesn't come easily. We have to work for it and forgo the laziness. The above-mentioned suggestions, if implemented can save the situation of today's unhealthy man from further deterioration.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: More reasons

Para 3: Solutions at organisations level

Para 4: Solutions at government level

Conclusion:

**Nowadays people are living longer and some believe that this can contribute to people's development. What are the causes of this change? Is it a positive or negative phenomenon?**

With the revolution in medical science and technology, human beings are living way longer than their predecessors, so much so that the 'Average Life Expectancy' at birth has risen from 31 years in 1900 to 71 years in 2013. This essay shall analyse the causes of this change. It definitely is a positive development.

The primary cause of this change is the growth and inventions done in the field of medicine, surgery and lifestyle. Some of the significant inventions are those of antibiotic penicillin, vaccination for smallpox, measles, mumps and rubella etc. In surgery, x-ray and anaesthesia have played a huge role to save human lives. Because of these inventions the doctors can diagnose the diseases in their very early stages and treat them completely. Many cancers are 100% curable if treated in their infancy.

Moreover, people today are aware of their health and body requirements. So, they eat well and have a clean diet. It is true that what we eat decides our health. Even the air conditioners today are advanced enough to filter pollens and germs to ensure clean air to breathe in the interiors. All such advancements have taken the life span of individuals to over 65 years.

This increased longevity can help in the development of people and is thus a positive phenomenon. Human resource is an asset. So, when we have our manpower living longer, we can invest more on their development and they in turn can render their services to the cause of nation building for a longer time. Most of the top-notch politicians, bureaucrats and managers are of mature age because with age comes maturity and stability to handle situations and people. Senior citizens, even if not on the top ranks, can be assigned voluntary service opportunities in NGOs and even in their respective local areas. They can always be a guiding light to the younger lot.

There is a school of thought, which thinks of the aging population as a burden, but it is all a matter of opinion. As Pablo Picasso says, 'we don't grow older, we grow riper'. Life on Earth is a gift. We must cherish it. We must use this life for the benefit of society and for our loved ones.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that the demographic change of a graying population is very positive and our elderly can definitely help in the development of people.

Plan followed

Intro:

Para 1: Causes

Para 2: More causes

Para 3: Effects

Para 4: Opposite view

Conclusion:

**Nowadays plastic money replacements such as credit and debit cards are extremely popular, even more than banknotes and coins. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this. Include your personal opinion and examples based on your own experience.**

The ease in swiping a credit card for a purchase has made it very popular nowadays. Therefore, many opine that this plastic money will replace the coins and paper money in future. I believe that it is both a positive as well as a negative development. The weight of the merits and demerits of credit card is in the hands of the user.

There are many benefits of credit cards. Firstly, you can use them practically everywhere, especially overseas. They can also boost your purchasing power because they can be used to buy goods and services over the phone, through the mail and online. To add to it, they provide financial backup in the event of an emergency, such as an unexpected healthcare cost, job loss or auto repair. For instance, my parents were on a holiday in Kerala and there my mother had a medical emergency. She had to be hospitalized, but because my father had his credit card with him, he had no problem in paying the hospital bills.

Furthermore, credit cards allow you to purchase items and pay them off in monthly installments. They also offer discounts and rewards at stores. For instance, when you make purchases using the credit card you can collect points, which accumulate and can be used to get free items, such as airline tickets. Some cards may offer cash back as an incentive to use the card. They can help build your credit history. A person with a good credit history does not face problems when applying for a loan for any reason. Credit cards also keep a record of your expenses, helping you to monitor your financial activities.

On the other hand, credit cards can have their disadvantages. The most dangerous part of credit cards is not paying them off on time, and once you fall behind by one payment, late fees, interest, and penalties build very fast because of which many people find themselves sunk in credit card debt, with no way out. Another big disadvantage is the hidden costs. There is the start-up fees and processing fees and also the annual fees, which is quite an amount. Finally, one of the most overlooked negative aspects to credit cards is the ease with which cardholders overspend. The psychology behind this is simple. You purchase items without ever exchanging actual money, so you don't get the feel of spending.

Summing up, as with anything, there are advantages and disadvantages of using credit cards. It is in the hands of the person using the card to make its advantages outstrip the disadvantages.

#### Plan followed

Intro: Advantages or disadvantages lie in the hands of the holder

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Para 4: More disadvantages

Conclusion:

**Some people think that managers alone should make decisions in the company, while others think that employees should be involved in the decision-making process too. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

A company may have the best product, the most competitive prices, the best workforce and the best managers, but if it lags in decision-making, it won't last long. People are divided on the issue of - who should be the decision makers, whether it should be the managers alone or whether employees too should have a say. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I side with the latter view for trivial routine decisions and with the former view for the crucial top-level decisions

Managers are seasoned men. They manage. They are educated in management skills and are trained to handle crucial tasks. A well-trained manager, who has risen to the helms of affairs of any company, is obviously a better person for the job. Moreover, decision-making is an activity which requires only the selected few managers and owners. It can only happen when the owners and managers are well versed about the company's goals, aims, objectives, policies and conditions. Furthermore, confidential matters are shared only in the top brass of the organisation. Only the top managers know the loopholes and trade secrets of a company and can handle the things better.

On the other hand, the view to involve the employees in the decision making process is an evolving one. It has become the need of the hour to delegate and decentralize not just the responsibility to the employees, but the authority as well. An employee who does the same activity every day is a better judge and decision maker, for that very activity. He shouldn't be made to seek permissions for trivial matters. For example, if an operator is made responsible to assemble 50 motors, he should get a matching authority to decide for his activity too.

Moreover, when employees are involved in the decision-making connected to their respective activity, they feel motivated. They come up with better and newer ideas. They build a bond with the company and their job. They even perform better when their voices are heard.

To sum up, having discussed both views, the best approach would be to strike a subtle balance between the two. With authority should come responsibility and responsibility should be backed by authority. It would be best to involve the employees in the day-to-day decisions and keep the key level decisions to the managers alone.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay

Para 1: Why managers are better

Para 2: Why employees should have a say

Para 3: More reasons in favour of employees

Conclusion

**In many countries around the world young people decide to leave their parents' home once they finish school. They start living on their own or sharing a home with friends. Do you agree or disagree with this approach? Give your opinion.**

The trend of living alone or with friends rather than families has gained popularity among the youth, all over the world. It has some advantages as well as disadvantages. I agree with the given methodology of young people leaving their parents' homes and living alone. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Living alone or sharing an apartment with a friend teaches the young adults many things. They become independent, more confident, develop decision-making skills and learn to deal with situations and problems on their own. It is true that these things can be taught at home, while living with their parents, however, there is always a sense of dependency and security that the children feel when with their parents, which may come in the way of their handling things on their own. For instance, children who live with parents till a late age are too dependent on someone else to give them suggestions, or make decisions for them. They may never step out of their comfort zone and consequently, cannot handle challenges very well.

Furthermore, living away from home encourages the young people to explore more and learn more. They gain more experience by meeting new people from different backgrounds and culture. It also helps them become more social, whereas, if they stay with their parents they may not feel the need to socialize or there may be restrictions at home. Such generation gap may spoil the parent-child relationship. It has been rightly said that 'Distance strengthens relationships.'

To add to it, when parents know that their children are going to stay on their own just after school, they also start imparting moral values to their children in early childhood, and so by the time the children step out of their homes, they are mature enough to understand the difference between right and wrong. They also learn how to manage expenses related to rent, bills, food, etc. They would never learn to handle these things when staying with their parents.

The opponents of this view say that such freedom to the youth usually takes them on the wrong path like drug addiction, petty crimes, etc. However, I still believe that with freedom, a sense of responsibility is developed and by the time children reach adulthood, they have been taught about moral values and ethics and they are mature enough to understand the difference between what is right and what is not.

To conclude, I reiterate my opinion that young adults should live independently, as experience is the best teacher, especially for learning life skills. Family will always be there to support them even if they don't live with them. In this world of competition it is very important that the youngsters learn to fend for themselves.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Agree

Para 1: benefits of living on their own

Para 2: More benefits

Para 3: More benefits

Para 4: Opponents view

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion



**Some people think students in primary school / secondary school should be taught how to manage money because it is an important life skill. Do you agree or disagree?**

It is irrefutable that in today's complex life, monetary skills are essential for people of all ages. I agree that financial management is a vital life skill and hence should be taught to primary and secondary school students. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

The main advantage of incorporating financial planning at school level is that students have the opportunity to enter adulthood armed with a better understanding of how money works, and how to make it work for them. For example, individuals who start a business or even start a family require certain level of financial know-how to function efficiently. In addition, such proficiencies learned in school make young adults acquainted with superior budget planning strategies, thus increasing the chances of success by taking judicious decisions. Thus, it is understandable how knowledge about money can cater students towards an erudite adult life.

As well as providing a basis for future learning, early financial education can also be of benefit to primary school pupils in the shorter term. Young people are encountering money earlier and earlier in life. A survey conducted found that the average age at which children first have their own mobile phone is eight years, while the average age that children borrow a debit or credit card to purchase items online is just 10. So, today's children need to be money-savvy very soon and primary and secondary school years are the best to teach them all that. Moreover, this encourages them to wisely spend their funds, while making them realize the worth of all the facilities provided to them by their parents.

To conclude, financial planning classes at school level can help a lot in the short term as well as long term. Therefore these classes are an absolute must in school.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: advantages

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

**Some people think that schools do not do enough to teach young people about how to look after their health. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

“Health is Wealth” is a well known saying. The home, the school and the community should share the task of helping each child to be healthy. Unfortunately, health education is not given any place in most schools. Wherever it has been started, it has brought enormous benefits. This essay shall delve into the advantages that can be brought about by school health programmes.

To begin with, it has been seen that schools that provide health services and education not only benefit school-aged children, but also the entire community. This is because school children can act as messengers for other out-of-school children and members of their communities to communicate better practices in hygiene and overall health. It has also been demonstrated that de-worming programs in schools benefit out-of-school children by reducing disease transmission in the community as a whole.

Furthermore, healthier children are more likely to attend school, and absenteeism is reduced. Education and good health offer children the power of choice and opportunity, as well as optimism for a better life. In this way, health education in childhood can help establish lifelong positive behaviors. What is more, health education can help protect individuals, particularly young women, from HIV infection and pregnancy. It is widely recognized that school health and nutrition programs are essential to prevent further HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Finally, we all know that today childhood obesity is a big problem because of fast food trend. Obesity is not just one problem; it can lead to many other problems such as hypertension and diabetes at a young age. If health education is incorporated in the school curricula, this problem can be tackled to a large extent.

To conclude, it can be said that, health education should be a mandatory part of all school curricula. It would bring many benefits in times to come, not only for the children but for the entire communities.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall delve into the advantages that can be brought about by school health programmes.

Para 1: advantages

- schools that provide health services and education not only benefit school-aged children, but also the entire community

Para 2: more advantage

- absenteeism is reduced
- health education in childhood can help establish lifelong positive behaviors
- health education can help protect individuals, particularly young women, from HIV infection and pregnancy

Para 3: more advantage

- combats obesity

Conclusion:

**Some people say that science study should be mandatory in schools, others argue that it is unnecessary. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

Science is a very important subject, just like many other subjects. However, people are divided on the issue about it being a part of school studies. Some people are of the opinion that it is a very important subject and must be taught in the school years. Others opine that it shouldn't be a compulsory subject at schools. I will discuss both these perspectives in this essay. I, however, side with the former view.

Science should be taught in the early years, as a part of the elementary education. This is the one subject that provides answers to all the questions that children are curious about and about how things work. For instance, why the moon looks different on different days of the month or why do we have different seasons? This increases their knowledge and understanding. It also makes us think logically, solve problems and also us understand the other subjects better. It makes children question everything and not accept everything as it is. This develops critical thinking among children.

Some other benefits of teaching science in schools are that it increases awareness about the technology and various issues like, pollution, conservation of natural resources, endangered wild animals, different weather conditions and so on. It is a practical subject and students can learn easily by performing experiments in laboratories. Furthermore, it cannot be denied that the countries that support more science programs are more progressive than those, which don't give importance to science.

Those who say that science should not be taught to school children, say so because they think that science is ever changing. They say that keeping up with the advances made in science everyday and new discoveries made, is very difficult for children to cope with. They shouldn't be burdened with difficult concepts like the big-bang theory, sub-atomic particles, neurotransmission and so on. If they have an interest in science, students can take it up as a specialization in high school or secondary education.

In conclusion, study of science subjects clearly has more benefits than cons. It may have some difficult to understand concepts, however, if taught in an engaging and interesting way, it will help with the holistic development of children.

#### **Plan Followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Why science should be compulsory

Para 2: More advantages of teaching science

Para 3: Other view

Conclusion:

**Nowadays, a lot of people are able to do their work from home. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this development.**

The modern era is an era of the IT revolution and all those jobs which are dependent on the Internet can be done from anywhere. This has enabled many companies to provide their employees, with computers and a good internet connection, to work from home. This is called telecommuting and has become very common in recent times. This is largely advantageous to both employees and employers but has a few disadvantages as well.

On the positive side it saves time and money of employees as they don't waste time commuting to and from office and also do not need to spend on fares of public transport or on petrol and diesel if they use their own vehicle. The time they save in this way can be given to personal or family needs which is very much needed in the fast-paced hectic lifestyle of today. They can also look after minor family commitments such as dropping their child to school. They also save on the clothes as they don't have to spend on formal office wear. Secondly, they can work for anyone on any corner of the world sitting in their homes.

Telecommuting helps the employers also because they need to build and maintain big offices. We all know that land prices are exorbitant and even maintenance of offices is very expensive. Moreover, it has been seen that telecommuters don't take much sick leave or other leave which in turn benefits the employers. Then, there are advantages to the environment. Less people going and coming from offices means less traffic on the roads which means less petrol and diesel being burnt and so less pollution.

Disadvantages of telecommuting to the employees are that they have to reserve a corner in their home for office as they have to sit there undisturbed during office hours. Secondly, they do not get the office atmosphere to work and so it can get very boring at times. They can also be disturbed by the family who fail to realise that the person sitting at home is not free. The employers also find it very difficult to supervise tele-commuters.

To sum up, telecommuting has pros as well as cons but definitely the advantages have an edge over the disadvantages.

### **Plan followed**

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of telecommuting

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

**Do you think than physical activities should be introduced to school children on regular basis? Explain. What kind of sports are the most useful?**

It is very important that for the holistic development of a child that regular physical activity be a part of their routine. The best way to do that for children is to include it in their school time. There are a number of sports that children can play to stay both physically and mentally fit. The numerous benefits of physical exercise for children are discussed in the upcoming paragraphs.

Regular physical exercise is needed for a healthy body and a healthy mind. It helps with proper growth and builds strong bones and muscles. Including sports or any other exercises in a child's daily schedule, helps set a good habit very early and this helps them remain fit and active throughout their lives. Research has proved that exercising during early childhood years helps prevent many diseases later in life, like obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and so on.

Sports and any other form of physical exercise also help reduce stress and anxiety. This in turn makes the children do well academically, as they are able to concentrate better, do their tasks on time and achieve better grades. This is the reason why most of the schools have physical education as a part of their curriculum. It is as important as any other academic subject taught at schools.

Another very important benefit of including such activities at schools is that students learn the very important life skills, like teamwork, co-operation, discipline, sportsmanship spirit, punctuality etc. These skills have become the need of the hour, with the ever-growing competition, in every field. Children also learn about different cultures when they play sports, as they come across other participants from different regions and backgrounds. This helps broaden their horizons and inculcates a sense of equality.

There are many sports that can be easily incorporated by the schools. If there is sufficient open area available at a school, sports like basketball, volleyball, cricket, football etc. can be easily included. If a school premises doesn't have enough open area, then many indoor games can be taught to the students, like table tennis, badminton, basketball and so on. Many other indoor games like chess can also be included, which can help students develop strategy-related skills. Games like scrabble can help students build their vocabulary in an interesting way and help them academically as well.

To conclude, I would reiterate that it is very essential that physical activity be a part of every child's daily routine, so that they develop skills and good health, which helps them throughout their lives.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Yes

Para 1: advantages of sports

Para 2: More advantages

Para 3: Even more advantages

Para 4: What physical activities could be incorporated

Conclusion

**Nowadays, many families move overseas for job opportunities. Some people think this is beneficial for the children of these families, while others think children will find it difficult. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

The opportunities to work abroad are more today than they have ever been in the history of mankind. The big planet Earth has become a small global village and sovereign barriers seem to have disappeared. While working in a foreign country, some individuals take their family with them. This situation has both merits as well as demerits but definitely the pros outweigh the cons.

There are many obvious benefits of going abroad to work along with family. To begin with, individuals have more bonding with family. The family relationship is not weakened by distance. Some couples finally end up in divorce, as one or both of them cannot endure the long-term separation. Secondly, many people feel homesick and lonely and therefore cannot adjust in the foreign country and return home, thereby missing the golden opportunity of working abroad.

The most important point is that children, especially who are in young ages, need the care from both parents. Childhood is a crucial phase of life and comes only once. If children are deprived of one parent's love, it may have a considerable impact on their psyche. Therefore, working abroad with family can provide complete love and care to the children.

On the other hand, there are some problems of working abroad with families. To begin with, living with family members abroad means more expenses. A single person can share a room with someone in the initial stages but a complete family needs a proper house. What is more, all the members face stress of adaptation to alien surroundings. Parents themselves feel culture shock and therefore cannot help their children.

To conclude, there are both advantages and disadvantages in any choice of this issue. Personally, I believe that people should decide according to their specific circumstances. If there are financial constraints, then it is better to go alone initially. However, the family should be called as early as possible.

#### Plan followed

Intro: advantages outweigh the disadvantages

Para 1: Benefits

Para 2: more benefits

Para 3: disadvantages

Conclusions: reiterate your opinion

**Should media networks such as newspaper publish people's private information?**

Media plays a very important role in our lives. Through the different media, be it print or broadcast, we get to know about the local, national and international news and along with that it helps spread awareness and brings to our notice the various issues and helps form our opinion. In this day of competition, in order to increase the sales or the TRP, many media people publicize the private life of the celebrities and other famous people. In my opinion, this is not justified.

It is true that the reason why such private information is publicly disclosed is because there is demand for such details by the masses and people enjoy such news. However, that doesn't give anyone the right to publish such information, especially without the consent of the person concerned. Every individual has a right to privacy and journalists and other media persons should not invade the privacy of anyone, be it a common man or a famous person.

Moreover, most of the celebrities act as role models for many youngsters. If negative or uncensored information is published about famous people, many people may follow them and indulge in the same kind of behavior as their role models, even if it is something wrong, like drinking or smoking excessively or using abusive language. To add to it, if some private aspect of that person's life is published or broadcast, it may affect the career of a celebrity adversely. Ultimately it is a loss for the public as well, as an artist is lost in the process.

My final argument against publicizing private lives of celebs is that when the paparazzi make their private lives public, it sometimes affects their performance, which is the loss of the common people. These celebs entertain us, and if they don't perform well, they cannot entertain us well.

Opponents may say that any public figure has to accept this as a part of their lives, as they chose this way of life, when they chose to become a celebrity. However, I strongly believe that this still does not give anyone the right to invade someone's privacy and make it public.

To sum up, it can be said that we all have a right to privacy and so do the famous people. It is not right for the media networks to publicize anyone's personal and private information.

Plan followed

Intro: They should not

Para 1: first reason

Para 2: second reason

Para 3: third reason

Para 4: My view

Conclusion

**Tourism has caused environmental problems in many parts of the world. What sort of problems has been caused and what can be done about them?**

Tourism and the environment have a very complex and interdependent relationship. Negative impacts from tourism occur when the level of visitor use is greater than the environment's ability to cope with them. This essay intends to analyze the damage to environment caused by tourism and suggest ways to alleviate the problem.

To begin with, tourism development can put pressure on natural resources when it increases consumption in areas where resources are already scarce. For example, water, and especially fresh water, is one of the most critical natural resources. The tourism industry generally overuses water resources for hotels, swimming pools, golf courses and personal use of water by tourists. To cite another example of forest resource, one trekking tourist in Nepal - an area already suffering the effects of deforestation - can use four to five kilograms of wood a day.

Secondly, tourism can cause many forms of pollution such as air, noise and even visual pollution. Tourism now accounts for more than 60% of air travel. One study estimated that a single transatlantic return flight emits almost half the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by all other sources (lighting, heating, car use, etc.) consumed by an average person yearly. Noise pollution from airplanes, cars, and buses is an ever-growing problem of modern life. In areas with high concentrations of tourists, waste disposal is a serious problem and improper disposal can be a major despoiler of the natural environment - rivers, scenic areas, and roadsides. For example, some trails in the Peruvian Andes and in Nepal frequently visited by tourists have been nicknamed "Coca-Cola trail" and "Toilet paper trail". Visual pollution occurs when large dominating resorts are built in any natural environment and may look out of place there.

Many steps could be taken to ameliorate the negative effects of tourism. The attainment of sustainable tourism is an urgent need. It implies balanced commercialization, resource conservation, waste disposal management and pollution control. Eco-tourism is the need of the day. Depending on the resources, only a fixed number of tourists should be allowed in any place. Tourists should be aware against littering and spoiling natural places. Sustained active role of firms and governments is considered vital for the future of tourism development.

In conclusion, it can be reiterated that environmental issues have become pivotal in economics of tourism. Many steps can be taken to mitigate the negative effects of tourism.

**Plan followed**

Intro:

Para 1: Effects on environment

Para 2: More effects

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion:



**Young people say that traveling to different countries benefits them and the society. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.**

Youth travel is one of the fastest growing and most dynamic markets of the global tourism sector. Some individuals believe that travelling abroad is beneficial for the youth where as others opine that is wastage of time and money. This essay shall discuss both views before forming an opinion.

Some people consider it a waste of time and money because of several reasons. They believe that in today's era of cut-throat competition, young people should concentrate on their studies and careers. They do not earn yet and if they travel at a young age they are wasting their time as well as their parent's hard-earned money. What is more, they are not mature enough and may face problems while travelling such as food and language problems. Finally, they believe that today, the satellite TV and the internet has brought the whole world into their bedroom, so they should be doing other useful work instead of travelling.

On the other hand, travelling in young age has enormous benefits. It provides tremendous opportunities for fun, adventure and discovery. When young people visit places in other countries, they gain a better understanding of the people living there. They learn their cultures, history and background. They discover the similarities and differences. It is interesting to learn from people with diverse backgrounds.

Furthermore, research suggests that traveling overseas at a young age leads to successful careers. It helps them decide what they want in life. Traveling when young can be a great platform to diversify one's experience early in life and to discover one's purpose in life. Each country, each city, even each restaurant a person visits is an opportunity to experiment something different. It is better to realize one's true desires and potential early in life than when it is too late.

To conclude, it can be said that although travelling at a young age involves time and money it is worthwhile and has a lot of benefits for the youth. So if the young people get the chance to broaden their horizons and go and experience new places it may make a world of difference to them.

**Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss essay intro

Para 1: Why some people say it is a waste of time and money

Para 2: Why it is useful

Para 3:

Conclusion:

**Many people think television is a good thing because it makes their lives more interesting and enjoyable. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Entertainment has always been a need for human beings, to be able to relax, enjoy and take a break from their routine. Technology has brought entertainment within the walls of our house, through televisions. I am in complete agreement with the given statement that television has made life fun and entertaining.

There are numerous benefits of television. In this day and age of global competition, everyone is leading busy and hectic lives. Due to such busy routines, people are not able to take out time for leisure, like in the past. They do not have time to meet their friends and relatives very often. So television has become the best source of entertainment for everyone. They can remain in the comforts of their home and watch shows of their choice.

Due to the progress in technology, we now have hundreds of TV channels, telecast from all over the world. It is now possible to see new places, learn about their culture and food, without visiting those places. Not only that, through this armchair tourism, we can see animals, which we may not get a chance to see in reality. Along with entertainment, it has become the best and a very effective source of knowledge. Through the television, we get news and updates from all over the world.

Undoubtedly, there are some negative effects of watching TV. Watching TV for long hours may lead to health problems, like obesity, poor vision and so on. Children may get into the habit of watching too much TV and don't get any physical exercise, which also makes them unhealthy and less creative. It also leads to many children not being able to develop social and interpersonal skills. There are also many TV shows that contain violence, crime, vulgarity and abusive language, which have adverse affects on the minds of children and adults.

To sum up, it can be reiterated that television has revolutionized entertainment and has a lot of advantages. The adverse effects can be minimized by taking simple measures like allocating only a limited time to watching TV and being mindful of the kind of shows people watch and also those that they let their children watch.

Plan followed

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Plus points of TV

Para 2: More plus points

Para 3: Some negatives

Conclusion:

### **Which is more important - A high salary or job satisfaction?**

Many people choose their jobs based on the size of the salary offered. Personally, I disagree with the idea that money is the key consideration when deciding on a career, because I believe that other factors such as job satisfaction are equally important.

On the one hand, I agree that money is necessary in order for people to meet their basic needs. For example, we all need money to pay for housing, food, bills, health care, and education. Most people consider it a priority to at least earn a salary that allows them to cover these needs and have a reasonable quality of life. If people chose their jobs based on enjoyment or other non-financial factors, they might find it difficult to support themselves. Artists and musicians, for instance, are known for choosing a career path that they love, but that does not always provide them with enough money to live comfortably and raise a family.

Nevertheless, I believe that other considerations are just as important as what we earn in our jobs. Firstly, personal relationships and the atmosphere in a workplace are extremely important when choosing a job.

On average we spend a great deal of our time in the workplace, which means that if we are not happy with our job, we are also unhappy with our personal life. Having a good manager or friendly colleagues, for example, can make a huge difference to workers' levels of happiness and general quality of life.

Secondly, many people's feelings of job satisfaction come from their professional achievements, the skills they learn, and the position they reach, rather than the money they earn. Low job satisfaction often leads to low productivity levels and work stress. Finally, some people choose a career because they want to help others and contribute something positive to society.

In conclusion, it is clear that choosing a career that one loves has many advantages. If you love what you do, your chances of success are pretty high and money will follow. High salary is also important but job satisfaction is definitely more significant.

#### **Plan followed:**

Intro:

Para 1: Importance of high salary

Para 2: Importance of job satisfaction

Para 3: Importance of job satisfaction

Conclusion: Job satisfaction is more important

**Nowadays people like to use new electronic equipment. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?**

Technology has practically taken over our lives. Electronic devices have become an integral part of our lives. Such devices range from cellphones and notebooks to washing machines, microwaves and dishwashers at home. We use electronic gadgets not only for work in offices and industries, but also in our homes. Everyday there is a new invention that makes our work easier and convenient. This development has both merits and demerits. In my opinion its pros are more than its cons.

At work, the use of computers has made the work of the employees faster and their productivity and efficiency has improved immensely. For most of the jobs, having computer skills has become a pre-requisite. Electronic devices can be used not only at work, but also for education and for domestic purpose. For instance, we don't have to go anywhere to buy groceries and vegetables. These can be ordered in a few clicks of the mouse and are home delivered. The time saved with the use of such equipment can be utilized to pursue our hobbies and other interests. Even for hobbies, people take online classes or watch videos and learn new things, like recipes, guitar lessons, language lessons and so on.

To add to it, most of the schools have classrooms equipped with electronic equipment, like smart boards, projectors, TV screens, etc. The use of technology in education has improved the quality of learning among students. Furthermore, communication has been revolutionized with the use of such devices. We can connect with anyone, in any corner of the world, within a matter of seconds. Through video calls, people cannot only stay in touch with friends and relatives, but it has also helped many people expand their business globally.

On the downside, we have become too dependent on the electronic equipment and gadgets. Without these devices, people start feeling helpless and it seems that our work and world has come to a standstill. Also, the over-dependence on technology has led to many health-related problems, due to less physical activity and less utilization of our brains, making us less creative. We are so reliant on technology that a system failure for a few seconds at the stock exchange, can lead to huge losses, affecting an entire country's economy.

To conclude, I would reiterate that the increasing use of electronic devices has brought tremendous positive changes in our lives. However, it is in our hands to mitigate its negative effects, by not over-depending on electronic devices. It has been rightly said, "Technology should improve your life, not become your life."

**Plan followed**

Intro:

Para 1: Electronic devices at work and home – Benefits

Para 2: Benefits in school

Para 3: Drawbacks

Para 4: More drawbacks

Conclusion:

**Many people are not as fit or as active as they used to be, and it is having long term effects on them. Why is this happening and what are some ways to solve this?**

**OR**

**Nowadays many people have unhealthy diets and do not exercise regularly. Why is this happening? How can we encourage these people to live a healthy lifestyle?**

Obesity and its related problems are a growing cause of concern. The main reason is the sedentary lifestyle and fast food culture. This essay shall delve into the reasons why people choose to eat unhealthy diet and not do exercise. Some measures to motivate people to adopt a healthy lifestyle shall also be discussed.

The fast paced life of today is the most common cause of this habit. People have become workaholics in their rat race after material possessions and as a result don't have the time to cook healthy food and even do any exercise. Whole foods require time to prepare and processed or ready-to-eat foods are consumed which are definitely less healthy.

Another reason is the taste factor. Given the choices of steamed broccoli versus macaroni and cheese, or baby carrots versus potato chips, or an apple versus a candy bar, most people would choose the latter simply because it tastes better. The mushroom growth of fast food outlets have also made them very affordable and very easily available. Finally, perhaps the most significant reason is lack of awareness that obesity caused by such a lifestyle is not just one disease; it has many other deadly diseases like diabetes and hypertension associated with it.

People can be encouraged to adopt a healthier lifestyle in many ways. The governments can aware people about the ill effects of obesity through the media. Sports stadiums and well equipped gyms should be made available in the propinquity of residential areas so that people don't have to go far to access them. Benefits of healthy eating habits and daily exercise should be told to people through the media. Last but not least, the family meal should be encouraged. People tend to eat better when they are sitting down at a table. There is better control of the serving size. There is more focus on interaction and discussion and not only on the food.

Summing up, people eat unhealthy and don't exercise enough but if they are made aware about the ill effects of such a lifestyle and motivated to make some lifestyle modifications then surely it would make a big difference.

### **Plan followed**

Intro:

Para 1: Reasons

Para 2: more causes

Para 3: How people can be encouraged for healthy life style

Conclusion:

**Some people think it is better to travel by car in the city. Others, however, think traveling by bicycles is better. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

Travelling by bicycle is fun, healthy, environment friendly and an economical means of travelling within a city. However, some people opine that it is better to travel by a car in cities, than by bicycles. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I personally side with the view in favour of bicycles.

Undoubtedly, in today's world where global warming and climate change have become burning issues, bicycles can greatly help reduce the pollution. Studies have shown that cycling 10 km each way to work would save 1500 kg of greenhouse gas emissions.

Secondly, bicycle is an affordable and independent means of transport as well, especially for those who have restricted travel options, like the unemployed, those under 18 and the lower income people who cannot afford a car. Besides all these advantages, riding a bicycle for short distances within the city would keep people physically fit, which is very necessary in today's time, where people have sedentary lifestyles.

The proponents of car travel within the city say that in this fast-paced life, time is of the utmost importance. They think that the faster means of transport is what is needed in today's world to get to work, schools, business meetings, etc. However, the use of bicycles in the city would rather save time of people than waste their time. The cars move at a snails pace especially during peak hours, which literally increases the commuting time two or three fold. Bicycles have actually reduced the commute time, which has been seen in Denmark, where the government has made 19000 km of bicycle tracks all over the country for the convenience of the people.

The supporters of car travel within the urban areas also opine that if the numbers of vehicles are reduced, it will have an adverse effect on the economy of the city and subsequently the country. This may be true to an extent, however, it will only be a short-term issue. In the long run, it will be very beneficial to any country's economy, if more and more people start using bicycles for travelling short distances and to and from work everyday. It will drastically decrease the hidden motor vehicle costs, such as accidents, congestion, pollution, road maintenance and so forth. This would be immensely beneficial at an individual level as well.

We cannot ignore the great advantages of travelling by a car and other motorized vehicles, especially when travelling long distances. However, for travel within the city people should be encouraged to use the eco-friendly and economical means of transport.

**Plan followed**

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages of bicycles

Para 2: More advantages of bicycles

Para 3: Advantages of car with refuting arguments

Para 4: Advantages of car with refuting arguments

Conclusion

**Some people believe teenagers should concentrate on all school subjects, even ones they do not enjoy. Others, however, believe that teenagers should only focus on the subjects they are best at or find most interesting. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

In today's competitive world, a broad knowledge is needed to succeed in any field. However, some people say that it is a waste of time if students study subjects, which are not of their interest. This essay intends to analyse both perspectives. I, personally side with the former view.

Let us first examine the reasons why some people hold the opinion that students should not have to study all the subjects and should be allowed to choose the subjects they want to study. They opine that in this case the students will probably be more enthusiastic about their study. In addition, if students are forced to study all subjects, they can easily lose interest in education. What is more, if all subjects are compulsory for studying, students will not have enough time to learn all of them properly therefore they will be constantly under a lot of pressure.

However, I believe all subjects are of great importance and for the holistic development of the students they need to study all subjects equally at school level. Later on, during admission to the colleges, students can select the subjects of their choice and can explore them further. At that age they are mature enough to decide their subjects for themselves. At school level the student may not know what his real interests are.

Furthermore, nowadays, the job market is very demanding and the recruiters select students who are skilled in various fields. Having the basic knowledge of varied subjects during school time definitely widens the horizons for the students. To add to it, it is a well known fact that most subjects are related to each other in some way or the other. For example, a basic knowledge of mathematics is needed to excel in computer languages. Finally, I believe that it is up to the teachers to develop interest of the students in any subject. For instance, during my school days, my history teacher was so good that a boring subject like history was the favourite subject of the whole class.

To conclude, students should learn all subjects at school level as they are not mature enough to know their real interests at school level and a broad knowledge is also needed for their holistic development.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: reasons why some people hold the opinion that students should not have to study all the subjects and should be allowed to choose the subjects they want to study.

Para 2: Why all subjects are important

Para 3: More reasons to study all subjects

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

**Some people say that popular tourist destinations are receiving bad effects from travelers. Why does this happen and what can be done to resolve this?**

These days the pollution produced by tourists has threatened the natural environment of some tourist attractions, making it a big problem to be addressed before those places are completely damaged. This essay shall try to highlight some reasons why people litter these places and also suggest some ways forward.

The most important reason why people litter these tourist places is that they have little awareness of environmental conservation. People think that their one plastic bottle or one wrapper of chips does not matter. What they don't realize is that if each tourist has the same thought then very soon these natural scenic spots would turn into mountains of such litter. People also don't know that this rubbish is mostly of non-biodegradable material and will stay like that for ever.

Another reason why people don't care is that they think it is not their responsibility. They think the onus of keeping these places clean rests on the authorities. They have to realize that the environment is everyone's responsibility. Finally, the environmental protection facilities are not enough in many tourist attractions. People would not litter these places if trashcans were there at regular intervals.

The first step towards sustainable tourism would be that the governments and tourist companies could educate the tourists about their responsibilities. Tourists should be made aware through the media and tour operators about responsible tourism. They should be made to realise that their careless attitude could kill future tourism and nothing would be left for the gen-next. Additionally, the authorities should have proper facilities at such places and if facilities are not enough according to the number of tourists then the number of tourists should be limited.

To conclude, it can be said that irresponsible tourism has led to damage of the natural environment and at many places the tourist places have been so much littered that they have ceased being a tourist attraction any more. The responsibility of saving these spots rests on both – the tourists and the government. One should remember the saying, "A good tourist is one who leaves behind nothing but footprints and takes away nothing but photographs."

#### **Plan followed**

Intro: This essay shall try to highlight some reasons why people litter these places and also suggest some ways forward

Para 1: they have little awareness of environmental conservation

Para 2: they think it is not their responsibility  
the environmental protection facilities are not enough

Para 3: Solutions

Conclusion: The responsibility of saving these spots rests on both – the tourists and the government



**Nowadays, as a part of the educational process, students work at a company for a short period of time without pay. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?**

Unpaid internships are a part of many degree programs nowadays. I believe the advantages of this trend fairly outweigh the disadvantages.

The main advantage of working in companies for free as part of course is to the students themselves. Students gain valuable experience, which can help them in deciding the career of their choice. An internship can also give them the possibility of securing a job upon graduation or shortly thereafter. Former interns have a competitive advantage over other job seekers since the company knows them.

These internships also benefit the employers in several ways. They get services at no cost. They can screen trainees and get acquainted with their quality of work. They can always hire employees who show good progress when performing duties assigned by them. In this way employers can convert interns to full-time employees seamlessly, which reduces or eliminates any training-related costs.

There are benefits to the educational institutes also. Their student interns tend to bring their real-world experience back to the classroom, which helps keep courses relevant and curriculum up-to-date with the current trends. This results in a richer learning experience for everyone.

On the other hand, unpaid internships also have a downside. Those who do unpaid internships can be exploited and made to work longer hours, which may affect the current employees. They may find these younger counterparts a threat. Secondly, many students can't afford to take an internship if it doesn't pay anything, which can contribute to social inequality. Finally, it has been seen that doing a free internship does not actually increase employability. Employers start thinking that if they such unpaid interns may also be willing to work for lesser money than their regular employees.

To sum up, unpaid internships have advantages to interns, employers and educational institutes. There are a few disadvantages, but the advantages overpower them.

#### **Plan followed**

Intro:

Para 1: Advantages to students

Para 2: Advantages to employers

Para 3: Advantages to educational institutes

Para 4: Disadvantages

Conclusion:

**Many people believe money is a very important factor for achieving happiness. Others, however, believe that money has nothing to do with happiness. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

It is irrefutable that money can bring ease and comfort in a person's life. However, the negative side of having too much money cannot be overlooked. This essay shall look into the advantages and disadvantages of having too much money.

It is easy to see how money can enrich our lives and make us happy. The world runs on money. The basic amenities of life such as food clothing and shelter can be got only with money. You can trade money for almost anything. With money one can buy all comforts and luxuries of life. One can study in the best schools and colleges and can also enjoy the best health services. Money is needed to enjoy holidays with family and with money one can bring smiles on the lips of one's nears and dears.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why people say that having a lot of money has no relation with happiness. To begin with, the richer you are the more taxes you have to pay. You will also have to keep track of what you have. You may have to pay people to keep accounts of all of your holdings. Money may become an obsession; it can alter your perception of life; you may stop trusting even your true friends. In this way, it can alter your social behaviour. Too much money won't let you see every day's little pleasures.

It can be said that the excess of money is as bad as the lack of money. The poor person is certainly not happy, nor can happiness be seen in a very rich person. Happiness is in contentment. There are many things which money can't do. For example, money can buy you a pretty good dog, but it cannot buy the wag of his tail. Money can buy books, but not knowledge; money can buy medicines, but not health and money can buy a bed but not sleep.

To conclude, definitely money is needed for everything in life. However, excess of money has its downside. Therefore, one should be satisfied with just enough. However, how much is 'enough' is a very difficult question to answer.

**Plan followed**

Intro: Agree with both halves of the statement

Para 1: Advantages of having money and too much money

Para 2: Disadvantages of too much money

Para 3: Comparison of advantages and disadvantages of too much money. The excess of money is as bad as the lack of money

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

**Computers have made our world a better place to live. Do you agree or disagree?**

Computers are ubiquitous nowadays and almost every home, office, or school has a computer of some kind these days. There can be no denying that this is because of the plethora of benefits we get from using computers. Therefore, I agree with the given statement that computers have transformed the world for better.

To begin with, our personal and professional lives have improved because of computers. We can now do more things and do them more easily than we could before. Checkout lines at stores move faster because a computer scans the prices. The bank manages our account more easily because of computers. The weatherman reports the weather more accurately with the help of computers. A computer is involved in almost everything we do, or that is done for us. Most people these days do their jobs with the help of a computer. Architects use computer programs to help them design buildings. Teachers use computers to write their lessons and get information for their classes. Pilots use computers to help them fly planes. With the help of computers, people can do complicated jobs more easily.

Furthermore, through the Internet, computers have made communication much more convenient. E-mail has made it possible to communicate with people instantly at any time of day. The Internet has made it possible to find out the latest news right away - even if it is news that happens someplace far away. The Internet has made it possible to get almost any kind of information from any place quickly, right in your own home or office. To add to it we can now do net-banking, online shopping and even do air and rail reservations online.

Undoubtedly, there is a dark side to this man-made machine called the computer. Many jobs have been lost due to the fact that computer can do a lot of tasks more efficiently than humans. This has led to high unemployment in many countries. What is more, kids if left unsupervised would spend all of their time playing games on the computer rather than using it for educational purpose. Moreover children might use the internet to access pornographic material. Furthermore some people when working from home with computer are far more likely to feel cut off from rest of the world. Also frequent and prolonged computer exposure may pose physical health risks especially for children. The most frequently cited are visual strain, harmful effects of radiation and posture problems. Last but not least, in case of network failure, the whole office work may come to a standstill. Despite all these drawbacks, the computer has made life without it un-conceivable.

To sum up, computers and the internet have come to stay. Obviously, the whole world has changed for the better.

**Plan used**

Intro: agree

Para 1: Advantages

Para 2: Advantages through the internet

Para 3: disadvantages

Conclusion: pros more than cons

**In many countries, children spend long hours on homework. Some people think less homework can reduce student's stress and give them a chance to develop other skills. What is your opinion about this?**

People have been deeply divided over the homework issue for a long time. On one hand there are the proponents of homework who talk of its benefits and efficacy, and on the other hand we have some individuals, who would like schools to adopt a no homework policy for students. The given statement, however, raises a concern about too much homework and says that homework should be light and non-stressful. I completely agree with the given notion.

On the one hand homework gives the chance for a student to learn lessons in a more comfortable environment. It helps to consolidate and clarify what was learned during the school day. It is an extension of classwork that allows students to achieve mastery of the content or skills to be learned. It reduces time for TV and video games and promotes good study habits. It teaches self-discipline and time management and above all, it lets parents see what their children are doing at school.

But, when the children are overburdened with homework, all the advantages of homework seem to fade away and the dark side becomes prominent. Too much homework reduces family time. Most parents have to work full time in order to support their family today. When they come home, they want to spend time with their children, but children are too busy in homework. It also prevents students from helping parents in household chores.

Moreover, students need time to relax, play and pursue sports and hobbies. Too much homework can make students too tired after a long day at school. It may also keep them up too late at night. What is more, homework is often meaningless busywork, which does not promote real learning. Therefore, care must be taken to ensure that homework is relevant and linked to vital learning objectives at all times. It must be designed to deepen students' understanding, and facilitate mastery of the material to be learned. Teachers should not overburden students with homework. There should always be reasonable homework timetables or schedules and homework should be age appropriate. It can range from one hour or a little less per night in the lower school, to three hours or a little more per night in the upper school.

To sum up, homework should be there, as it has many benefits, but it should be within reasonable limits and should promote real learning.

Plan followed:

Intro: Agree

Para 1: Advantages of homework

Para 2: Disadvantages of too much homework

Para 3: More disadvantages

Conclusion: Reiterate opinion

**Many people are following the latest fashion of clothing style and haircuts. Why are they influenced? Is this a good or bad development? (v. similar to 136 in book)**

Fashion has never been out of fashion. It is a way of life. It has been evolving ever since Eve decided to start wearing a fig leaf. However, it is also true that it has become very essential in today's time to look fashionable. This is both a positive as well as a negative development.

To begin with, fashion plays a foremost role in giving the crucial first impression. In the period of cut-throat competition, a lot of weightage is given to personality that is our dress and demeanour. It has become a barometer to measure our social standing and success. What is more, it adds variety to our life when we try out new apparels. It also satisfies the creative urge in us, for only man is gifted with an aesthetic sense that makes him want the things around him including his attire to look beautiful.

Perhaps the biggest advantage of this trend is that it has given rise to an entirely new industry which is worth over a thousand crore rupees. No wonder, large educational institutes are imparting specialized fashion technology courses such as the NIFT and NIFD. It has given rise to a plethora of new industries ranging from apparel to accessories. It has become a lucrative career option for the youth today. Many fashion houses of India are exporting clothes to foreign countries and earning valuable foreign exchange.

On the other hand, it has become an exclusive preserve of the rich and the influential for they have the means and the resources to indulge in this luxury. This creates a sharp divide between the haves and the have-nots, which in turn creates a psychological imbalance in the youth. They try to ape their affluent friends, but in the absence of means resort to unlawful and unethical means. Today's youngsters just to buy a pair of fashionable shoes do a lot of petty crime.

The need is therefore to strike a balance between being fashionable and wearing what is right for us. We must not blindly follow fashion but we should wear what suits us and in what we feel comfortable. The clothes, which look good on others, may not suit us and wearing those clothes may make us a subject of ridicule.

Summing up, we must be in fashion to add flavour to our lives, but we must beware of the 'herd' instinct, which impels us to emulate others without considering its suitability on us.

**Plan followed**

Intro: This is both a positive as well as a negative development.

Para 1: - advantages

Para 2: advantage

Para 3: disadvantages

Conclusion: Following fashion is good but within a limit and according to what suits us.

**Some people say that in our modern age it is unnecessary to teach children about the skills of handwriting. To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

A common opinion is that with the increasing role computers play in our society; handwriting is no longer an important skill to learn at an early age. Unfortunately this opinion is misguided. I firmly believe that handwriting is very important even in today's era of technology. A number of arguments surround my opinion.

Handwriting is important because research shows that when children learn how to do it, they also learn how to express themselves. Handwriting is so much more than simply putting letters on a page; it is a key part of learning to communicate. Writing is almost as important as speaking, as a medium for communicating thought. For this reason it is said that "Writing is a secondary power of speech, and they who cannot write are in part dumb." Scrawls that cannot be read may be compared to talking that cannot be understood; and writing difficult to decipher, to stammering speech.

Handwriting is also important because kids are required to use it daily in school from kindergarten on. Children who struggle with the mechanics of handwriting may have trouble taking notes or tests or completing their schoolwork. This can affect both their self-esteem and their attitude toward school. Good handwriting can mean better grades. Studies show that the same mediocre paper is graded much higher if the handwriting is neat and much lower if the writing is not.

What is more, handwriting proficiency inspires confidence. The more children practice a skill such as handwriting, the stronger the motor pathways become until the skill becomes automatic. Once it's mastered, children can move on to focus on the subject, rather than worry about how to form letters. Furthermore, handwriting aids memory. For example, if a person writes a list or a note — then loses it — he is much more likely to remember what he wrote than if he just tried to memorize it.

In summary, handwriting skills are very essential even today. Apart from being a tool of communication, it helps the brain develop, it can improve grades and confidence and also aids memory.

Plan followed

Intro: Disagree

Para 1: Writing is a method of communication

Para2: Handwriting improves grades

Para3: Improves confidence and memory

Conclusion: reiterate opinion

**Many people spend a lot of money on clothes, haircuts, and beauty products to enhance their appearance. Some people think that it is a good way to spend money, while others think that there is a better way to spend it. Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

For centuries, men and women have beautified their eyes, lips and body. However, in today's contemporary society, people are spending excessively on their looks. Some people opine that this expenditure is justified, but others are opposed to this overspending. This essay shall discuss both perspectives. I, however, side with the latter view.

This disproportionate spending on their façade appeals to many because it is a general perception that when you look good, you feel better; when you feel better, you behave better; when you behave better, the people around you tend to respond to you positively. There is no doubt that fashionable clothes, stylish haircuts and high quality beauty products can turn any ugly duckling into a beautiful swan.

Secondly, in today's competitive era, looks are very important, so much so that some professions are totally dependent on looks. Many film stars have got face-lifts and other cosmetic surgeries done on their faces to look younger and thus be in job for longer. Even in some other jobs such as receptionists in offices and air-hostesses, looks are given weightage over other things.

On the other hand, some people opine that such extravagant expenditure on looks is unreasonable. They say that one should save or invest money to build a bright future. That money can also be spent on quality education in a reputed university. Some money should also be donated for charity.

I believe that looks are important and it is everyone's right to look their best. However, one must remember that ultimately what matters is the inner 'you'. It is more important to be beautiful from within. What is more, these products are not without their side effects. Too many products used on hair and face may damage the hair and skin permanently. Therefore, one must not overspend on these things.

To conclude, outrageous spending on improving looks is bad. The outer appearance may have a temporary appeal but what ultimately matters is the person within.

### **Plan followed**

Intro: Discuss

Para 1: Why spend

Para 2: Why not spend

Para 3: Why not spend – own opinion

Conclusion

**Schools have a limited amount of money to spend. Some people suggest that it should be spent on good teachers, while others say it should be used for buying equipment like computers. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

In situations where schools are facing crunch situations, they have an option either to spend on good teachers or on technology such as computers. This essay intends to look into both choices. However, I firmly believe that there are no technology shortcuts to good education, and even with limited resources, blended learning is the answer.

Spending on hiring the best teachers is better because children require the ongoing guidance and encouragement to persevere in the school years. Caring supervision from human teachers is the only known way of generating motivation for the hours of a school day. While computers appear to engage students, the engagement is usually fleeting and children are soon distracted. No technology can provide the tailored attention for students that dedicated teachers can, and thus, attempts to use technology as a stand-in for capable teachers are bound to fail.

There are some technology enthusiasts who claim that it is advantageous to spend on computers. They argue that computers are becoming better at providing customized direct instruction and at assessing student's knowledge. They also say that computers are better at repetitive tasks like vocabulary drills. Teachers find these jobs very monotonous. Therefore, they opine that computers are better.

I believe that even though the resources of schools are limited, the focus should be on blended learning. Both teachers and technology are important. Resources should be equally spent on both. Blended learning allows much of the work of basic instruction to be done by computers so that teachers can keep students focused on studies and assess them from time to time. Blended learning does not eliminate teachers, but instead eliminates some of the job functions that teachers find most onerous. Technology will not improve our education system if we marginalize or eliminate teachers. Likewise, our education system will not meet modern needs until we incorporate technology.

To sum up, for primary and secondary schools that are underperforming or limited in resources, efforts to improve education should allocate resources equally on both. We should focus on finding ways to let technology do what it does best so that we can allow teachers to do what they do best.

Plan followed

Intro: Discuss essay with opinion

Para 1: Why teachers

Para 2: Why computers

Para 3: Why spend equally on both

Conclusion



**The amount of garbage produced by our cities is a big problem for governments around the world. How can this problem be fixed?**

Cities are producing more garbage than ever before and the amount is likely to double by 2025. This essay intends to study the ways to tackle this, global garbage crises.

Most contemporary waste management efforts are focused at local government level and based on high-energy waste disposal by methods such as landfill and incineration or burning. However these methods are becoming increasingly expensive and energy inefficient. Therefore we have to focus on other sustainable methods for waste disposal.

The first way to deal with waste is waste minimization. This is an approach that aims to reduce the production of waste through education and the adoption of improved production processes and less wasteful practices. Ultimately, by discarding less and preferring durable goods and through appropriate handling methods, consumers can lessen the waste generated. We should reflect on what we really need and what we can do without.

Secondly, we should focus on the mantra of 'reuse'. Most materials are made from nature, such as trees, minerals, oil, gas and metals. The waste we create is really a resource that is thrown away sometimes after a single use. Reusing and then recycling these materials helps limit resource use, keeps valuable materials out of landfills, and prevents pollution. When we reuse things, fewer materials are wasted and non-renewable resources are conserved.

Thirdly, we should recycle things. As much as 80 percent of everyday waste materials can be recycled and given new life when broken down and used again and again. Recycling still uses energy and resources, but it's much better than making things from scratch. For example, every ton of newspapers recycled saves approximately 17 to 19 trees and over 70 percent less energy is needed to produce aluminum from recycled cans than from raw materials.

Another important step we can all take at household level is composting. Organic materials (food scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, yard waste, etc.) make up about 30 percent of the garbage going to landfill. Instead of wasting this valuable material by throwing it in the garbage, it can be composted. Composting waste has two key benefits: it reduces the amount of waste going to landfills and it produces a free natural fertilizer that helps build healthy soil and plants, achieving a healthier environment.

To sum up, solid waste generation is becoming a colossal problem, but we can deal with it in many ways. The time has come to stop waste before it stops us.

Plan followed:                      Intro:  
 Para1: Contemporary methods being used  
 Para 2: Reduce  
 Para 3: Reuse  
 Para 4: Recycle  
 Para 5: Composting  
 Conclusion: